

VI Parenting By Nicki

When all around you is a great big blur
And it's tricky to tell people apart,
When the children run far and wide,
Keeping track of them is an art!

When we had no kids, no responsibilities,
I never gave sight a second thought,
The worst of my worries were reading that menu...
And I'd usually end up with chocolate torte!

But the demands of parenthood on anyone
Can be tough to say the least,
Now add the issues of living without much sight,
And life's a challenging beast!

With no children it didn't matter at all
If I couldn't see more than 3 feet,
But once they learned to crawl, walk and run,
It added complexity beyond belief!

Suddenly life turned upside down
And for the first time ever, I felt disabled!
I'd been through school, uni, work,
And although these were challenging,
It was parenthood that really turned the tables.

For I cannot see them when they venture off,
I cannot see their faces!
I don't know if they're happy or sad,
Unless they're closer than 3 paces!

I cannot take them to the beach
Or swimming or out for treats.
I cannot even take them to buy new
Shoes to fit their growing feet!

I want to teach them right from wrong,
But I can't see what they're up to,
And though some may consider it by-the-by,
Others seem to think I'm
Actually choosing to turn a blind eye

I love my kids more than life itself,
And want them to live life, have fun, embrace it!
I want to give, provide, enjoy, keep safe,

But I can't do that alone,
Let's face it!

I need a sighted friend or guide,
To help me fulfill this dream,
To take us out,
To understand,
And, most of all - buy ice cream!

It has been a long and tricky road,
Which is so often misunderstood!
I've been so shocked by how my lack of sight
Has impacted their childhood.

My sight has gotten so much worse
And that I've found so frustrating!
Although the toughest thing in the world to accept,
I'm determined I won't give life a second rating!

Please understand just how hard I'm working
To participate, live, overcome, enjoy,
For every little thing we do
Requires a carefully considered,
Tried and tested coping strategy.

Nicki Woodward