Preparing for the show

Start here

There are many different ways to talk about child eye care, enough for several shows. For example:
1. Main causes and solutions of childhood blindness
2. Child eye care: steps to take when your baby is born
3. Busting myths around childhood blindness
4. Knowing the basics about childhood eye care

Educate yourself more on the topic:
1. Orbis Africa: www.orbis.org/pages/research/
2. Baby Centre: www.babycenter.com/0_red-flags-signs-that-your-baby-may-have-a-vision-problem_1439840.bc
5. Key phrases to Google: child eye care, child blindness, child cataracts

Also remember there are lots of local resources: newspapers, community-based organisations, government officials, and medical providers

Find people to speak to in your community:
1. Community members (young and old) to find out what they know about child eye health
2. A care giver that looks after a child who recovered from eye-sight problems
3. A young person who suffered from childhood blindness
4. Medical professionals (doctors and nurses) that work with child eye health
5. A traditional healer who has received training in child eye health

Find different ways to talk about the topic and structure your show outline.
Refer to pg 17-20

You must always introduce your show and radio features. Then once you've played your features have a concluding statement for each one. Don't forget a final conclusion for the very end of the show. Use links (facts, tips, did you knows, music) to glue it all together.

Write your radio script and produce your features. Refer to pg 21-24
Knowing the basics – Child Eye Care

When you wake up in the morning what's the first thing you do? Open your eyes, right? And what do you see? Imagine such a simple act of not being able to see the sunrays through the curtain or the switch for your room light.

Tips
How to identify a potential cataract:
- You notice white, grayish-white, or yellow material in the pupil of a child's eye.
- A child's eyes seem sensitive to light.
- Any signs that a child cannot see well (lights, mobiles, and other distractions still don't catch her/his attention.)
If you notice any of these signs, insist on an eye test at your local clinic, hospital or optometrist – if after the tests or medication the signs still carry on, go back to your local clinic, optometrist and hospital.

Did you know?
Sub-Saharan Africa (which includes South Africa) is the region with the highest number of childhood blindness in the world. Yet it is estimated that at least 50% of blind children in South Africa would still have their sight if their eye problems were identified and treated in time.

Facts
- Three-quarters (more than half!) of learning that happens in childhood is through sight.
- In developing countries (like South Africa), 60% of children die within a year of going blind.
- Untreated cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in children in South Africa. (cataract is the clouding of the lens of the eye which impairs vision).
- Cataracts can be treated quite easily with surgical intervention but the timing is critical – if a child is born with a cataract they should have the surgery before they are six years old.
- A Malawi study measured the impact of training Traditional Healers in medical eye care. It proved that 50% of patients visited a clinic or hospital after consulting with a traditional healer.

How to present your show

Intro:
You’re listening to [RADIO STATION] and this is [NAME OF SHOW]. My name is [NAME].
And my name is [NAME], and on today’s show we’re talking about eyes, you know those two things sitting in your head we rely on from the minute we wake up!

Host 1: Yes, and today we are going to be speaking to people who are going to share with us how we can prevent childhood blindness. Like [INSERT NAME OF YOUNG PERSON] who shares how he overcame childhood blindness...

[PLAY AUDIO PROFILE]

Questions for your interview:
1. Why is it important for us to know about child eye health?
2. What are the main causes of childhood blindness in South Africa?
3. How do we prevent it from happening?
4. Is eye surgery dangerous?
5. What are the most common signs that a child might be going blind?
6. What advice do you have for a parent or caregiver who notices these signs?
7. Do you think it’s possible for traditional healers and medical practitioners to work together? How?

Refer to pg 8-10

Outro:
Imagine if we all made an effort to know more about child eye health – so many young people in South Africa would not be blind now! 50% to be exact!

Host 1: Well let's keep our ears and eyes open and not forget to tune into our show next week [DAY] at [TIME].
Host 2: Till then, it’s bye from us!

You’ve finalised your script, produced your radio features, and finalised your show clock.

It’s time to go live on air!

You’ve finalised your script, produced your radio features, and finalised your show clock.

Refer to pg 25-28

Prepare to present your show.