



FREE Vision Screenings by FOCUSFIRST

Why screen young children for vision problems?

Vision problems in young children are more common than most people realize. Each year, poor eyesight adversely affects millions of children under age 6 across the United States, due largely to lack of public awareness about the importance of eye care in young children and the inability of children to recognize their own vision impairment.

While **vision screenings are most effective during the preschool years, when early treatment of many conditions can prevent irreversible vision damage or loss**, only 21 percent of preschool children nationwide receive comprehensive vision screenings.

FocusFirst provides high-tech vision screenings to preschool-age children in states across the Southeast. **Since 2004, FocusFirst has screened hundreds of thousands of children, with approximately 11 percent failing the screening and receiving free follow-up care.**



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Vision problems detected by FOCUSFIRST high-tech, digital screening cameras

A complete eye exam is recommended for children in whom these problems are detected.

Amblyopia (Lazy Eye)

Amblyopia is decreased vision in one or both eyes due to abnormal development of vision in infancy or childhood. Vision loss occurs because nerve pathways between the brain and the eye aren't properly stimulated. The brain "learns" to see only blurry images with the affected eye even when glasses are used. As a result, the brain favors one eye, usually due to poor vision in the other eye.

Anisometropia (Differences in power between the eyes)

Anisometropia means there is unequal focus between the two eyes, often due to one eye having a slightly different shape or size. The brain is then unable to use the eyes together and will pick the eye with the clearest image. The eye with the blurry image will be ignored and will not develop good vision. (1)

Astigmatism (Problems Focusing)

An abnormality in the shape of the eye in which the eye is not a perfect sphere, which results in distorted images and blurred near and distance vision, as light rays are prevented from meeting at a common focus. (2)

Hyperopia (Farsightedness)

A vision condition in which distant objects can be seen clearly, but close ones do not come into proper focus.

Myopia (Nearsightedness)

A vision condition in which people can see close objects clearly, but objects farther away appear blurred. (3)

Strabismus (Gaze, eye misalignment)

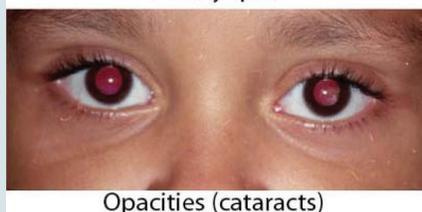
A condition in which the eyes do not properly align with each other when looking at an object. (4)



Normal Eyes



Amblyopia



Opacities (cataracts)

(1) American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. (2017, March). Amblyopia. Retrieved from AAPOS: <https://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/21>

(2) American Optometric Association. (2017). Astigmatism. Retrieved from AOA: <https://www.aoa.org/patients-and-public/eye-and-vision-problems/glossary-of-eye-and-vision-conditions/astigmatism>

(3) Mississippi Optometric Association. (2017). COMMON VISION CONDITIONS. Retrieved from MSEyes: <http://www.mseyes.com/learn-more-about-optometry-7/>

(4) Optelec. (2017). Strabismus. Retrieved from Optelec: <https://us.optelec.com/eyeconditions/strabismus.html>

Note: This program is based on a screening process; it is not diagnostic. Screening is intended to identify children with a wide range of eye problems who should seek the services of an eye-care professional for examination and diagnosis. As with any screening process, there is no assurance that all problems will be detected. Eye problems not detected by this screening process include diseases affecting the retina and optic nerve, glaucoma, certain forms of astigmatism, and color blindness. No screening process, including that of FocusFirst, is a substitute for a full examination by a qualified eye-care professional.