WANT MORE INFORMATION?

FINANCIAL HELP FOR EYE CARE:
preventblindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information
nei.nih.gov/health/financialaid.asp

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S VISION AND EYE HEALTH:
nationalcenter.preventblindness.org

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL HOME IMPLEMENTATION:
medicalhomeinfo.org

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS–BRIGHT FUTURES INITIATIVE:
brightfutures.aap.org

PREVENT BLINDNESS AMERICA:
preventblindness.org

NATIONAL DISSEMINATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:
nichcy.org/families-community/help/parentgroups

FAMILY TO FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS:
fv-ncfpp.org/f2fhic/about_f2fhic/

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?
Call **1.800.331.2020** or email **info@preventblindness.org**

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL HOME IMPLEMENTATION
A cooperative agreement between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau/HRSA and the American Academy of Pediatrics

NATIONAL CENTER for Children's Vision & Eye Health
At Prevent Blindness America

Disclaimer: The information contained in this fact sheet is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, it is provided for educational purposes only. You assume full responsibility for how you choose to use this information. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified healthcare provider before starting any new treatment or discontinuing an existing treatment. Talk with your child's healthcare provider about any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. Nothing contained in these topics is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment.

VISION SCREENING IS KEY TO HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT!

ASK if your child has been screened.
TALK about the results. ***ACT*** on referrals.

Eye health is important for people at all ages, but particularly for children.
Children use their vision to learn about their world. It is important that your child's eyes are checked during well baby and well child visits to make sure they are healthy.

Not all vision problems can be seen.
Children who have a problem may not realize it or be able to describe a problem with their sight. Regular eye screenings will help find possible problems.

Work with your medical home to keep your child's eyes healthy!

WHAT IS A "MEDICAL HOME?"

A MEDICAL HOME is the kind of primary health care we all want and deserve. A MEDICAL HOME is not a place—it is the way care is provided to your child/youth and your family.

At the core of a MEDICAL HOME is a knowledgeable, helpful health care provider and care team chosen by your family to take care of your child's health needs. The health care provider coordinates your care with specialists (other providers such as eye doctors and home health care, and community resources.)

The MEDICAL HOME also creates a central, trusted location where all of your child's medical history is collected.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN BORN PREMATURELY (LESS THAN 32 COMPLETED WEEKS), AND CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY OR NEUROLOGICAL PROBLEMS:

Children born early, those with delays in their growth, or with neurological conditions are at greater risk of vision problems. These children should visit an eye doctor regularly for a full eye exam.

BE AN ACTIVE PARTNER IN YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH!

DID YOU KNOW...

Children generally do not complain about problems with their vision. Eye problems that are not corrected may lead to a permanent loss of sight.

What you can do:

1. Watch your child while at play, and while looking at books, pets or other people. If something does not seem right, discuss this with your child's doctor.
2. Talk with your doctor about any family history of vision problems (such as "lazy eye", a "crossed eye", use of an eye patch as a child to correct vision, or need for eyeglasses with a strong prescription).
3. Ask at every well child visit if the child's eyes and vision have been checked.
4. Ask for results of the vision screening and make sure you understand what they mean.
5. Your child's doctor may recommend that he/she see an eye doctor to evaluate a problem found during the screening. If so, be sure to make and keep that appointment.
6. After the eye appointment, make sure all results are sent back to your child's doctor and a copy is provided to you.

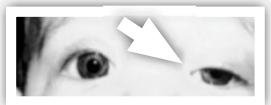
SIGNS OF A VISION PROBLEM

Many vision problems in children cannot be seen. But sometimes there are signs of a vision problem as shown below. Contact your child's doctor if you notice any of these signs:

Strabismus, often called a "crossed-eye" or "squint."

Leukocoria, or a pupil that looks white when light reflects on the eye.

Ptosis, or a drooping eyelid that blocks part of what the eye can see.



The actions you take now will help keep your child's vision healthy. Be sure to:

INCLUDE

- ☑ Vision screenings or vision risk assessments with every YEARLY well child check-up.
- ☑ Follow up on ALL vision screening referrals.

WATCH & DISCUSS

- ☑ Talk with your child's doctor about any questions you have.
- ☑ Share concerns that you or others may have noticed about your child.

BEFORE AND AFTER AN EYE EXAM

- ☑ Keep the appointment.
- ☑ Ask for the medical report to be sent to your child's medical home and get a copy for you too!
- ☑ Follow all recommended vision treatments as instructed by your eye doctor.
- ☑ Ask your eye doctor about any additional help or tools the child might need for school and how to get them.

PROTECT

- ☑ Wear sunglasses that block 100% of UVA and UVB rays from the sun.
- ☑ Use the correct eye safety wear for sport activities.

Let your child's medical home know if you have any problems finding or paying for an eye exam or treatment.

There are many organizations available to help families that need eye care for their children.