



Eyes On
Learning
Advancing Children's Vision Health



80% OF CHILDREN'S LEARNING IS THROUGH THEIR EYES

Good vision is important for a child's social development, school success, and healthy well-being. A child's vision develops at birth and throughout the preschool years.

About 1 in 20 preschoolers and 1 in 4 school-age children are affected with vision problems. It's critical to identify issues with eye health and vision development at a young age—problems are easier to correct when treatment starts early.

Routine vision screenings are just as important as other growth milestones. If a problem is detected on a routine screening, a child must get a comprehensive eye exam and follow the treatment plan.

At minimum, children should receive a vision screening:

- at 6 months old
- at least once between 3-5 years old
- annually in grades K through 4 and every other year after that

Vision screenings can occur in many locations such as:

- pediatrician's offices and other medical settings during well-child visits
- educational settings such as Head Start, preschool programs, elementary schools
- community settings such as libraries

Vision screening, eye exams, and treatment (such as eye glasses or contact lenses) are covered for every child through 18 years old by Medicaid, KidsCare, and insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act.



PATH TO HEALTHY VISION

SCREENING ► EYE EXAM ► TREATMENT



ONLY 29% OF ARIZONA
CHILDREN 5 YEARS OLD AND UNDER
RECEIVE VISION SCREENING*

*National Survey of Children's Health



DID YOU KNOW?

- Vision problems are the most common disabling conditions in childhood. About 1 in 20 preschoolers and 1 in 4 school-age children have vision problems.
- Children rarely complain about vision problems. They believe everyone sees the world the way they do.
- The path to healthy vision for children: regular vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, and treatment if needed.
- Healthy vision is a strong predictor of academic performance in school-age children.
- Uncorrected vision problems in childhood may affect health and well-being throughout adult years and even lead to permanent vision loss.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ▶ Request a vision screening for your child at all well-child visits.
- ▶ Look for signs of a vision problem in your child such as itchy eyes, squinting, excessive blinking or tearing, headaches, or sitting close to TV or computer screens. Note: children typically don't complain about vision problems.
- ▶ Talk with your child's doctor, school nurse, or teacher if you have concerns about your child's vision.



EYES ON LEARNING & ARIZONA VISION COALITION

The Eyes On Learning Vision Coalition is a dedicated group of state, local, and national organizations with a collective commitment to vision health and learning success for all Arizona children. Members of this public private coalition represent optometry, ophthalmology, nursing, pediatrics, school health, public health, family medicine, education, early literacy, early childhood, families, advocates, philanthropy, business, and other affiliations.

The Eyes On Learning Vision Coalition is aligned with Read On Arizona, the state's 3rd grade reading initiative. Through awareness, early identification, and follow-up care, Eyes On Learning makes the connection that children's vision health is key to helping advance literacy and reading proficiency.

The Eyes On Learning Advisory Board is comprised of members of the coalition and provides leadership and guidance for coalition strategies and activities, accountability, and communication.

eyesonlearning.org



Join Us: eyesonlearning.org



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Karen Woodhouse, Director

kwoodhouse@eyesonlearning.org

480.556.7140