

BLINGMONTHLY

August 16, 2013

August is National Children's Eye Health and Safety Month



Bling Eyewear, LLC
2000 Chapel View Boulevard
Suite 220
Cranston, RI 02920

www.BlingEyewear.com
p 401.943.4707
f 401.943.9707



The Importance of Complete Eye Exams for Children

By Dr. Rebecca Eiss

Back to school is just around the corner. Part of making sure your child is fully prepared for school is a complete eye exam! Good vision is key for success in school, and it has been estimated that as much as 80% of the learning a child does occurs through his or her eyes. Current law in RI states that each child must have a vision screening by a licensed health professional (usually their pediatrician) or a complete eye exam by an optometrist or ophthalmologist upon entering kindergarten.

It is important for parents to know that a vision screening by a child's pediatrician or at his or her preschool is NOT the same as a comprehensive eye and vision examination by an optometrist. Vision screenings are a limited process and cannot be used to diagnose an eye or vision problem, only to indicate a potential need for further evaluation. Screenings may miss as many as 60% of children with vision problems. Therefore, even if a vision screening does not identify a possible vision problem, a

child may still have one. Passing a vision screening can give parents a false sense of security. Many preschool vision screenings only assess one or two areas of vision. While vision screenings evaluate the accuracy of vision at a distance, they do not measure visual acuity for near, assess eye focusing or movement, or examine the health of the internal and external structures of the eye.

According to the American Public Health Association, about 10% of preschoolers have eye or vision problems. However, children at this age generally will not voice complaints about their eyes. Your child may not tell you that he or she has a vision problem because they may think the way they see is the way everyone sees. Signs that may indicate your child has vision problem include: sitting close to the TV or holding a book too close to their face, squinting, frequent eye rubbing or blinking, short attention span for the child's age (can be misdiagnosed as ADHD), an eye turning in or out, avoiding reading and other

close activities, frequent headaches, covering one eye, tilting the head to one side, seeing double, losing place when reading, and/or difficulty remembering what he or she just read.

Most childhood vision problems can be prevented or treated effectively through early detection and follow-up care. However, delayed diagnosis and treatment of vision problems in children can lead to vision loss, additional costly treatments, and missed learning and developmental opportunities. In short, I highly recommend a complete eye exam for every child before entering kindergarten to ensure good vision and eye health.

Sources:

American Optometric Association website, www.aoa.org

RI statute 16-21: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-21/16-21-14.1.HTM>

Send your Child Back to School in Style! Stop in to see one of our Eyewear Specialists today, for your Child's eyewear needs!



Here are some great links to
learn more about the lens
options out there for your Child



Essilor Junior lenses can brighten your child's future

- Scratch Resistant for increased durability
- Shatterproof Airwear® polycarbonate for safety
- Anti-Glare to reduce eye strain
- Easy-to-Clean to keep smudges away
- Affordable so you don't have to compromise
- Comfortable in every light with Transitions® lenses

http://essilorjunior.com/transitions_for_kids.html

Transitions®

Healthy sight in every light™



www.transitions.com