



CHILDREN'S VISION: HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING



BY THE NUMBERS:

Vision disorders are the 4th most common disability in the US. One in four school-age children and 5 to 10 percent of preschool-aged children have some form of vision problem requiring treatment. Untreated amblyopia (loss of or reduced vision in one eye) will lead to permanent vision loss and affects healthy development. 75% of all blindness and vision impairment is either preventable or treatable.



POOR VISION CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT A BABY'S ABILITY TO:

- See his/her mother and father and form connections
- Explore the world by reaching and grasping
- Develop fine and gross motor skills



HEALTHY VISION IN CHILDREN CONTRIBUTES TO:

- Improved school readiness
- Ability to learn
- Overall healthy development
- Ability to reach motor developmental milestones



DISPARITIES IN VISION HEALTH AND ACCESS TO CARE

- African American and Hispanic children experience a greater incidence of refractive errors and strabismus
- More than one in five preschool-age children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start programs has a vision disorder
- Risk for under-diagnosis and under-treatment of vision problems is increased for children from low-income families and minority populations
- Black children have lower overall health care expenditures than white children, but twice the expenditures for eye/vision related emergency services