

Bridging the Gap Between Vision Screening Referrals and Confirmatory Eye Examinations

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October 19 ,2022



**National Center
for Children's Vision
and Eye Health**

Prevent Blindness

Small Steps:

Bridging the Gap Between
Vision Screening Referrals and
Confirmatory Eye Examinations



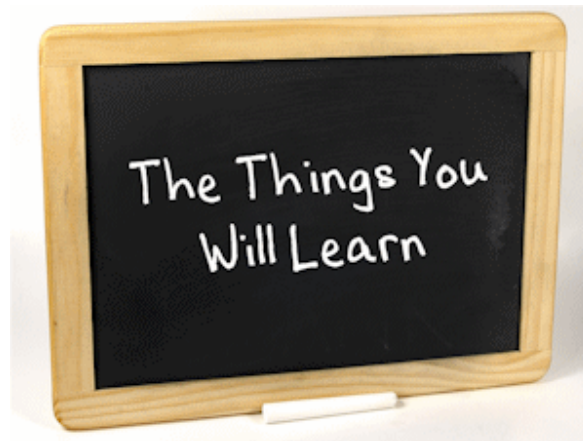
Continuing from August 16, 2022, Webinar

- Discussed evidence-based vision screening and best-practice procedures.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gtvTgKZlUY&ab_channel=PreventBlindness
- Today – Bridging the gap between vision screening referrals and confirmatory eye examinations.
- In an ideal world, all children referred for an eye examination would receive the exam and treatment or monitoring.
- Overarching goal = Reducing the gap by working with families to learn about and help resolve their individual common barriers and/or cultural beliefs.

3 Learning Objectives

Describe 3 common barriers to scheduling and attending an eye examination after receiving a referral from a vision screening.

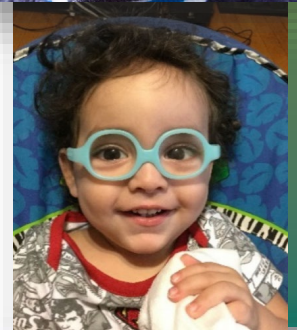
Describe 3 strategies to help overcome barriers to eye care.



List 1 financial resource that will cover the costs of an annual eye examination and a pair of prescription glasses and one financial resource for undocumented families.

How is Clear Vision Helpful for Children?

- Childhood development
- Education
- Child's self-esteem and confidence
- Improved classroom behavior
- Future Employability
- Lifelong Independence



Academic Considerations for Vision

- Improved GPA (reading and math) - more likely for hyperopes than myopes
- Increased satisfaction with school
- Reduced stress
- Improved cognition, attention span, and focus
- Improved test scores
- Less task avoidance and need for discipline
- Less labeling- ADD or ADHD
- Earlier identification leads to improved outcomes

Academic Performance of Oyster School Students after Receiving Spectacle Correction. Thesis by Kimberly L. Renner; Graduate Program in Vision Science; The Ohio State University, 2017

Healthier Students Are Better Learners: A Missing Link in School Reforms to Close the Achievement Gap. Basch, CE. EQUITY MATTERS: Research Review No. 6 Columbia University; March 2010. <https://sparkpe.org/wp-content/uploads/BaschReport.pdf>

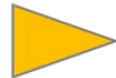
Why Resolve Barriers to Treatment?

- A failed vision screening **without** a follow-up, confirmatory eye examination, treatment and/or monitoring, and ongoing vision care **is not a complete vision screening**.
- **Undetected and untreated vision disorders** may be **difficult to treat**, lead to worsening and **permanent vision loss**, and **impact learning** if not treated early, preferably **before age 7**.
- One letter or one phone call may not be enough to ensure eye examination occurs.

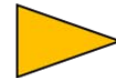


Pathway from Vision Screening Referral to Eye Exam in an “Ideal World” . . .

Child receives vision screening and referral for eye examination if the child does not pass vision screening.



Parents schedule and take their child to eye examination when their child receives a vision screening referral.




Child attends eye exam, receives treatment, and continues ongoing care.

Misconceptions

As vision screeners, we often think parents and caregivers will automatically follow the ideal pathway from receiving vision screening referral, scheduling, and taking their children for an eye examination, receiving treatment, and continuing ongoing vision care.

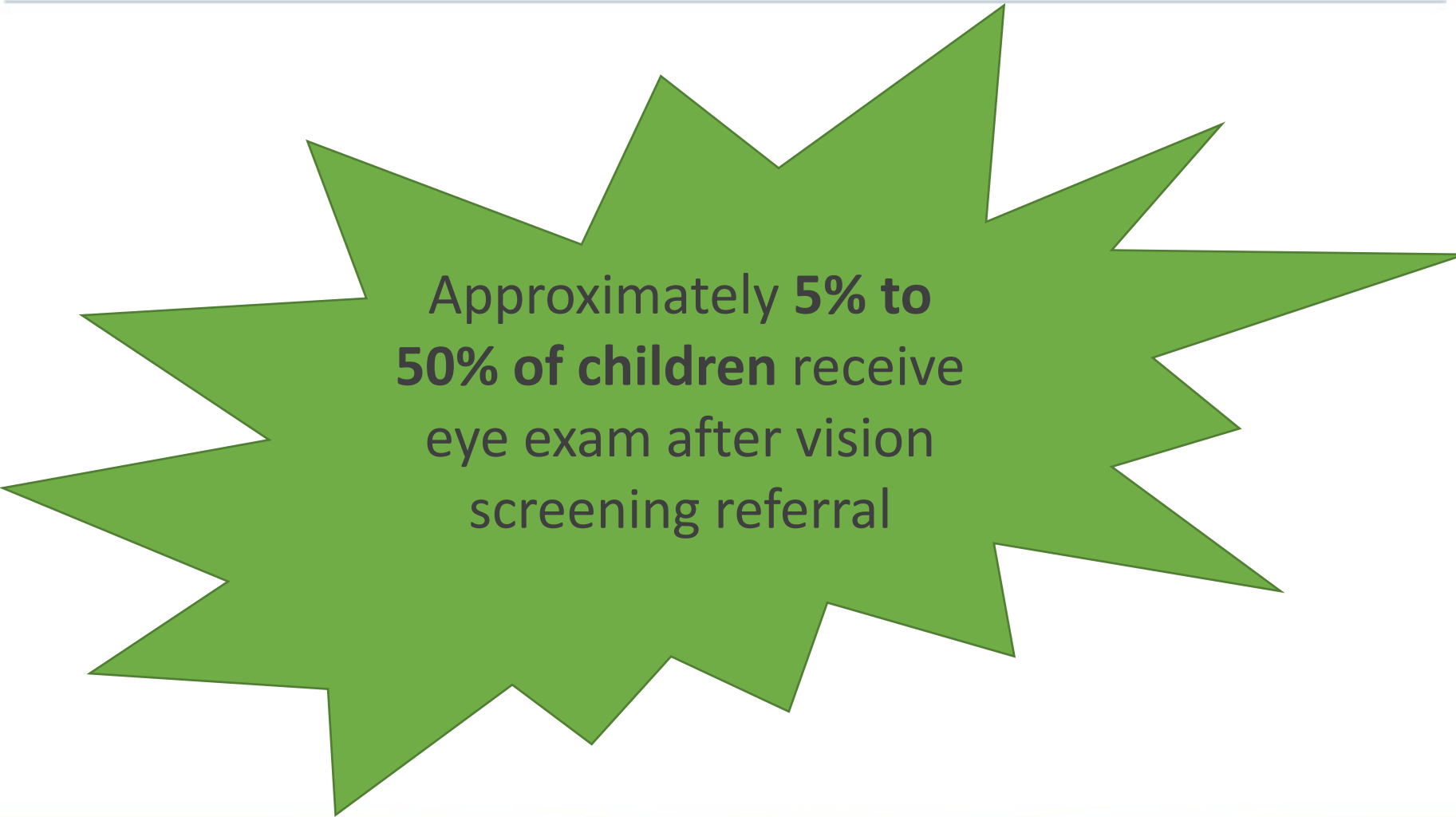
We may not always consider the level of knowledge parents/caregivers have about vision and eye health, how they feel about their children wearing glasses, or other barriers and cultural beliefs related to the follow-up eye examination and ongoing vision and eye care.

A breakdown in the
“Ideal World Pathway”
often happens at this
step ...



Parents
schedule and
take their child
to eye
examination
when their
child receives
a vision
screening
referral.

Rate of Confirmatory Eye Examinations



Approximately **5% to 50%** of children receive eye exam after vision screening referral

Finding the “Why” the Breakdown Occurs

- Do not call families “noncompliant”.
- Dig deeper to find the “why”.
- Look at common barriers and cultural beliefs.
- Work with families to address barriers and beliefs.

5 Examples of Cultural Beliefs

1. Home treatment:

“The simple things, for example, a child with eye inflammation are treated at home without consulting a doctor. We go to the pharmacy and take eye drop or eye ointment and we used the traditional treatment. For instance boiling salt water and using this as eye drops and tea water as well as chilli.

In the case of the child who has poor eyesight, we use the razor blade and sharply cut the both side of the child's eyes. The blood from the wound is wiped in their eye is said to be improve the child's vision.”

5 Examples of Cultural Beliefs

2. Perceptions about certain vision disorders:

Some parents were aware that eyes should be aligned while looking straight and that misalignment was a vision disorder while other parents considered the misalignment as a "sign of good luck". (p. 1464)



5 Examples of Cultural Beliefs

3. Child is too young to have vision problems:

Eye problems happened to adults after the eyes “get older”.

Children's eyes are “new” and should therefore not have any problems yet.

“But since they are children, they don't suffer from any eye problems, not like us that are older” and “it's like a new car as you use it more it starts to have more wear on it . . . so a child is completely healthy . . . then as grandparents they need glasses”.

5 Examples of Cultural Beliefs

4. Mistrusting school nurses:

Vision problem not considered priority, belief that screening results were inaccurate, examination not needed, and mistrust of school nurse.

Families don't believe their children needed a professional exam (they were unaware that their children failed the vision exam, parents thought their children intentionally failed the test to get attention, they did not believe the screening result, believe that school screening instruments are inaccurate, not trusting the school nurse, etc.).

Ethan, D., & Basch, C. E. (2008). Promoting healthy vision in students: Progress and challenges in policy, programs, and research. *The Journal of School Health*, 78(8), 411–416. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1746-1561.2008.00323.x>

Kimel L. S. (2006). Lack of follow-up exams after failed school vision screenings: An investigation of contributing factors. *The Journal of School Nursing*, 22(3), 156–162. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10598405060220030601>

5 Examples of Cultural Beliefs

5. Religious belief system:

Religious or cultural belief system did not allow for curative or supportive treatment.

"Both cultural and religious beliefs can affect whether parents seek medical attention, consent for traditional treatment, or attempt to refuse or limit traditional health care." (p. 48)

More than 30 churches identified in literature where doctrines, religious frameworks, or teachings include the limitation, refusal, or preference FOR PRAYER over traditional medical interventions.

10 Examples of Common Barriers

1. Lack of transportation or long travel time that may include an overnight stay (e.g., travel by ferry, airplane, or helicopter to nearest eye doctor).
2. All adults in household work and jobs do not provide time off or adults encounter problems taking time off from work and no convenient time to go to eye doctor.

"You have to ask permission at work and it's hard to get it."
3. Lack of insurance or provider does not accept insurance.

10 Examples of Common Barriers

4. Cannot afford co-pay or amount toward deductible.

"I can't afford to pay co-pays or prescriptions when all I have is \$200 child support for rent, gas, diapers, and anything else I need for my apartment like dish soap or toilet paper."

5. Lack of money, time, no transportation, non-English speaking families, fear of "outsiders" and many of our students live in households where the parents can't read or write.*
6. Lack of knowledge about vision health and importance of good vision for learning.

Devoe, J. E., Baez, A., Angier, H., Krois, L., Edlund, C., & Carney, P. A. (2007). Insurance access not equal to health care: Typology of barriers to health care access for low-income families. *Annals of Family Medicine*, 5(6), 511–8.

*Written comment from December 2, 2020, webinar - "Children's Vision and Eye Health: New Resources for Vision Screening and Parent Education" – in partnership with the National Indian Head Start Directors Association (NIHSDA) for American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Head Start programs – with Donna Fishman and Dr. Alma Sandoval, Health Specialist Region XI Head Start – 12/2/20 – (570 registrants)

The Lack of Money Barrier

Goal: To reduce the incidence of unnecessary vision loss and impairment by providing access to **a donated comprehensive eye examinations and eyeglasses** for uninsured and underinsured individuals in the United States.

How the program works:

- Prevent Blindness partners with an organization/agency to identify adult and children in need of eye care services, but without the means to obtain these services on their own.

Eligibility criteria:

- Income at or below the current 200% federal poverty guidelines
- No vision benefits through Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance

2 Financial Assistance Programs

Eyes of Hope Program For VSP

- For use with adult and children for exams and glasses
- May also be used for children and adults with a prescription only and in need of glasses.
- Family income at or under 200% of [Federal Poverty Level guidelines](#)
- Haven't received care through a VSP program during the last 12 months.
- No vision care coverage through a private insurer or government program.
- Gift certificate may be used at any local VSP provider.



Eyes of Hope®

2 Financial Assistance Programs

Voucher Program



ONESIGHT
EssilorLuxottica Foundation

- Recipient will need to have an updated prescription not more than 1 year old (voucher program does not include an eye exam).
- Total household income at or under 200% of [Federal Poverty Level guidelines](#).

The Lack of Money Barrier

- **Question:** Financial assistance resources most helpful to Head Start and preschool and school-age families?
- **Answer:** VSP can assist these families.
- **Question:** Financial assistance for one eye exam and one set of glasses a year and how this is provided?
- **Answer:** Individuals call me directly at 800-331-2020 or they may use info@preventblindness.org to receive an application.

The Lack of Money Barrier

- **Question:** Financial assistance for undocumented families?
- **Answer:** Social Security Numbers are not required for any of these programs.
- **Question:** Financial assistance to help families receive replacement glasses for broken glasses?
- **Answer:** If a current prescription is in place, OneSight is primarily used for this.

The Lack of Money Barrier

Programs:

- VSP (Vision Service Plan) Eyes of Hope Gift Certificate Program: Provides eye exams and eyeglasses.
- OneSight Eyeglass Referral Program: Assists clients with current eyeglass prescriptions with quality eyewear.

For further information:

- **Website:**

- <https://preventblindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information/>

- **Contact Tasha:**

- 800-331-2020
 - info@preventblindness.org



“Susan is 2 1/2 we had noticed that she was having a hard time seeing so we got her eyes checked and her eyesight is pretty bad. She’s had her glasses for 3 days and we can really tell a difference in her. Thank you for helping us make it possible for her to see!”

– Susan T.’s Story

Assistance facilitated through Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate

The Lack of Money Barrier

Success Story:

- Our Financial assistance programs have assisted thousands of families across the country.
- Many of these families have reached out via email and thank you cards with expressions of gratitude.
- One parent contacted me regarding assistance for her child as she had lost her work-related insurance after being laid off during COVID.
- Her daughter had broken her glasses and they were relatively new.
- Happily, she got in touch with Prevent Blindness via a web search.
- We chatted about her situation, she applied, and was approved for the OneSight program. This was because the daughter already had a newer prescription and were able to a new pair from Lenscrafters.

The “Lack of Knowledge” Barrier



Small Steps for **BIG VISION**



1. Did you know?
2. 10 take home messages
3. Signs of vision problems in children
4. Association Between Vision and Learning
5. Vision and Classroom Behaviors
6. Difference between vision screening and eye exam
7. Importance of eye exam
8. 10 steps from vision screening to eye exam
9. How to Schedule an Eye Exam
10. Financial Assistance

1. ¿Sabía Usted?
2. Diez mensajes para llevar a casa
3. Signos de problemas oculares en los niños
4. Asociación entre visión y aprendizaje
5. Los comportamientos en el aula pueden estar relacionados con la mala visión
6. Diferencia entre una evaluación de la vista y un examen ocular
7. Importancia del examen ocular de seguimiento después de recibir una referencia de una evaluación de la vista
8. Diez pasos pequeños desde la evaluación de la vista hasta el examen ocular
9. Cómo programar un examen ocular
10. Asistencia financiera

10 Examples of Common Barriers

7. Glasses are cosmetically unappealing for females.
"Social stigma regarding the wearing of glasses was more often stated by parents having a girl child as they felt it is cosmetically unappealing."
8. Language barriers.
"The doctors talk to you in English and we don't understand, and that's why we don't go."
9. Glasses = Stigma and bullying.
"Wearing glasses is something that everybody else sees, so it is a problem for potential stigma or bullying."
10. Scheduling challenges (e.g., not knowing how to schedule an eye exam).

Balasubramaniam, S. M., Kumar, D. S., Kumaran, S. E., & Ramani, K. K. (2013). Factors affecting eye care-seeking behavior of parents for their children. *Optometry and Vision Science*, 90(10), 1138–42. <https://doi.org/10.1097/OPX.0000000000000010>

Frazier, M., Garces, I., Scarinci, I., & Marsh-Tootle, W. (2009). Seeking eye care for children: perceptions among Hispanic immigrant parents. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 11(3), 215–221. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-008-9160-4>

Cassetti, V., Sanders, T., & Bruce, A. (2019). Challenges of eye health care in children and strategies to improve treatment uptake: A qualitative study from the perspective of eye care professionals in the UK. *British and Irish Orthoptic Journal*, 15(1), 96–194. <https://doi.org/10.22599/bioj.133>

Scheduling Eye Examination Barrier

HOW TO SCHEDULE AN EYE EXAMINATION

Step 1: Find an Eye Doctor:

An eye doctor examines your child's eyes to find out if your child has a vision problem that requires treatment now (such as eyeglasses or patching) or follow-up visits to see if treatment is needed in the future. An eye doctor can be an ophthalmologist, pediatric ophthalmologist, optometrist, or pediatric optometrist. Depending on the type of eye or vision problem your child may have, the age of your child, other health conditions, who is available to examine your child's eyes and vision, and the type of insurance you have, one type of eye doctor may be better to visit than another.

To find an ophthalmologist:

secure.aao.org/aao/find-ophthalmologist

To find a pediatric ophthalmologist:

secure.aapos.org/4a/memberDirectory/index.cfm?directory_id=7&pageID=3322

To find an optometrist:

<https://www.aoa.org/healthy-eyes/find-a-doctor?ss=y>

Step 2: Make the Eye Examination Appointment

1. Call your insurance company and ask if your insurance plan will cover the eye examination and the doctor you want to see.
 - a. Ask if your insurance company has rules about making eye appointments on certain days and times.
 - b. Routine eye exams and glasses are often covered by vision insurance.
 - c. Medical concerns about your child's eyes are often covered by health insurance.

2. When you call to make an appointment, be ready to explain all eye or vision problems your child is having.

- a. For example, you could say are calling to make an eye exam appointment because your child did not pass a vision screening.

You may want the eye doctor to look at vision concerns from this link:

Signs of Possible Vision Problems in Children or Parent Educational Checklist.

2. If your child has a disability, ask if the eye doctor has experience working with children with disabilities, especially sensory issues, and your child's particular disability.

- a. If the eye doctor does not have experience, ask if the office you called can recommend another eye doctor to call.

4. Try to get an appointment when your child is not likely to be sleepy or hungry.

5. After you make the appointment, write the doctor's name, date, and time of the examination on a piece of paper and place the paper on your refrigerator or add a reminder in your paper or mobile phone calendar to help you remember the appointment.



Questions you might ask during the eye examination if your child has an eye or vision problem and needs treatment¹

- ☐ What is my child's eye or vision problem?
- ☐ What caused the eye or vision problem?
- ☐ Will it get better or worse?
- ☐ Will my child need eyeglasses?
- ☐ What are the treatment options?
- ☐ Can you tell me how much my child can see?
- ☐ Will the eye or vision problem limit my child's activities?
- ☐ Can my other children have this same eye or vision problem?
- ☐ When I should return for the next exam?
- ☐ When is the best time to call if I have more questions?
- ☐ What else do I need to know?
- ☐ Ask at a follow-up eye examination appointment: Are there any changes since the last exam? Better or worse vision?

¹Adapted from the American Printing House for the Blind - www.familyconnect.org/info/after-the-diagnosis/working-with-medical-professionals/questions-to-ask/135

6. If you run into problems making an appointment or are concerned about costs of the eye exam or treatment, talk to your child's primary health care provider, Head Start staff person, or school nurse.
7. If you have a disability and need assistance with making the eye appointment or need someone to go with you to the eye exam, talk to your Head Start program staff or school nurse.
8. If you need a translator at the eye examination visit, ask if the eye doctor has a translator. You may need to bring a translator with you to the visit.

Step 3: Examination day! Prepare for the Visit

1. Watch a video of a visit to an eye doctor so you know what to expect during the eye examination.
 - a. **What to Expect at the Pediatric Ophthalmologist**
 - b. **Your Child's Eye Exam Dr. Tracey Strombeck – Video from Prevent Blindness Wisconsin**
2. Have a plan ready in case you need to spend a long time in the waiting room. For example, bring a favorite storybook, coloring book and 1 or 2 crayons, a small toy or cuddly stuffed animal your child can play with quietly, and a healthy snack if your child gets hungry.
3. If your child has a disability, bring papers about your child's disability to give to the eye doctor.
 - a. If your child has an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or a 504 Plan, ask the eye doctor if vision information should be added to these plans.
4. Write the questions you want to ask your child's eye doctor (examples of questions are below).
5. When you are in the exam room, you may want to ask the eye doctor to let your child watch a family member get an eye exam. Or the eye doctor could examine your child's stuffed animal. This will depend on your child's age. Ask the eye doctor to tell your child what is going on during the exam. Encourage your child to ask questions about what the eye doctor is doing.

Vision Care Financial Assistance Medicaid

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

7500 Security Boulevard

Baltimore, MD 21244

Phone : (877) 267-2323 | www.Medicaid.gov

The best place to start is the Medicaid office of your particular state. You can also find information and assistance at the Medicaid.gov website and the individual state Medicaid websites (Go to the menu and select "State Overviews").

OneSight's OnSite Voucher Program

Phone: (888) 935-4589 | www.onesight.org

Through OneSight's OnSite Voucher Program, eligible patients can receive glasses free of charge. For information on this program, contact Prevent Blindness: PreventBlindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information/

VSP® Eyes of Hope® Gift Certificate Program

Phone: (800) 877-7195 | giftcertificates.vspeyesofhope.com

VSP® Eyes of Hope® gift certificates provide adults and children in need (families' income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level) with access to eye care and new glasses (if needed) at no cost through a VSP network doctor in their community.

Additional Assistance Programs

For additional information, visit Your Sight: Vision Care Financial Assistance Information at Prevent Blindness (downloads available in English and Spanish): PreventBlindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information/



Our Vision Is Vision.

"Small Steps for Big Vision" is an initiative of the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness (www.nationalcenter.preventblindness.org). For more information, contact: info@preventblindness.org

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<https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2021/10/4A-How-to-Schedule-an-Eye-Exam.pdf>

4 Tips to Attempt Overcoming Barriers and Beliefs

- Determine how the family wants the vision screening results.
 - ☐ In Person
 - ☐ Written?
 - ☐ Verbal by phone?
 - ☐ Text message?
 - ☐ Email?
 - ☐ What language?

4 Tips to Attempt Overcoming Barriers and Beliefs

- Eye doctors stated: "... other family members, especially the in-laws in a joint family, act as barriers by stating their difference of opinions, creating doubts regarding the child's need for medical care, and sometimes confusing parents, not allowing them to seek care." (p. 1141)
- "Husband not allowing the wife to take the baby to consultation. In-laws don't allow the mothers to bring. Mother is scared basically blame will come on her" ... (p. 1141)
- **Tip: In multi-generational households – talk with individual in family who makes the medical decisions.**

4 Tips to Attempt Overcoming Barriers and Beliefs

1. **Call local eye doctors and document for each eye doctor the following (and share this information with parents/caregivers):**
 - a. Eye Doctor Name
 - b. Practice Name
 - c. Website Address
 - d. Physical Address
 - e. Telephone Number for Appointments
 - f. Hours Open for Business
 - g. Typical Time Eye Examinations Occur After an Examination is Scheduled
 - h. Whether or Not the Eye Doctor Accepts Medicaid
 - i. Other Types of Payment Accepted
 - j. Languages Spoken at the Office
 - k. Population Specialty (e.g., African American children, American Indian and Alaska Native children, Latinx children, etc.)
 - l. Whether or Not Interpreters are Provided
 - m. Whether or Not the Eye Doctor Examines and Treats Young Children
 - n. Whether or Not the Eye Doctor Examines and Treats Children With Special Health Care Needs, Including Infants and Toddlers (If the eye doctor does not see Children with Special Health Care Needs, will the eye doctor give you a name and telephone number of the closest eye doctor who will see Children with Special Health Care Needs?)
- **Assign staff or a volunteer to update the list every 6 months and include the revised date on the document to ensure families receive an up-to-date list.**

4 Tips to Attempt Overcoming Barriers and Beliefs

- Two questions to ask parents when taking a deeper dive into “why” eye examinations are not scheduled.
 1. “How would you feel if your child needed to wear glasses?”
 2. “What needs to happen for you to take your child for an eye examination . . . and how can I support you?”

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER . . .

- We have categories of common barriers and cultural beliefs, but barriers and beliefs are unique to each family.
- Do not say parents are noncompliant. The “why” is different for each family.
- Co-create solutions to individual family barriers and beliefs.

Health Action Plan

Follow-Up on Vision Screenings

Top Barriers & Concerns

Cost

Transportation

Parent Education

Families in Crisis/Trauma



What is a Health Action Plan?

Family Advocate provides resources to parents.

Parents have 15 days to schedule an appointment.

After 15 days of no updates, a Health Action Plan is done.

Parents meet with Family Advocate/Lead Center Teachers to discuss concerns/barriers.

Plan is written and signed by both staff & parent/guardian.

Individualized Health Action Plan

- Family requested Family Advocate's help making an appointment when their child was referred.
- **Barriers:**
 - English language fluency
 - Parents expressed hesitancy during enrollment due to immigration status
 - Lack of understanding of child's Medi-Cal rights
 - Confidence

ATCAA Early Childhood Services
Early Head Start ❖ Head Start ❖ California State Preschool
Developing People – Changing Lives – Building Community

Health Action Plan

Dear Head Start Family,
Head Start Program Performance Standards and California Department of Social Services require that children who attend Head Start meet certain health requirements listed on our Health Procedure Agreement form. Our staff members strive to help you keep your child healthy and safe. Currently your child's health file is incomplete or may need proof of follow up care. Please review the requirements below so that we can help you create a plan to keep your child's health file up to date.

- ☐ Immunization Appointment
- ☐ Completed Immunization Record Paperwork
- ☐ Physical Appointment
- ☐ Completed Physical Paperwork
- ☐ Dental Appointment
- ☐ Completed Dental Paperwork
- ☐ Vision Follow-Up Care Appointment
- ☐ Completed Vision Follow-Up Care Paperwork
- ☐ Hearing Follow-Up Care Appointment
- ☐ Completed Hearing Follow-Up Care Appointment
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Please list any concerns you may have about completing this requirement.

Translator available _____ Navigating health system _____
Finding affordable glasses _____

Below please collaborate with staff to write a plan of action.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Signatures</u>
Family Advocate will call together with family to make appt	10/24/22		<u>Staff:</u> _____ <u>Parent/Guardian:</u> _____
Family Advocate will go to the appt with family to help translate	11/16/22		<u>Staff:</u> _____ <u>Parent/Guardian:</u> _____
If glasses are prescribed, Family Advocate will assist with obtaining frames & lenses	11/22/22		<u>Staff:</u> _____ <u>Parent/Guardian:</u> _____
			<u>Staff:</u> _____ <u>Parent/Guardian:</u> _____

Individualized Health Action Plan for Family in Crisis/Trauma

- Family not meeting health requirements
- Barriers:
 - Continuing family crisis- unstable housing, transportation issues, substance abuse, mental health issues
 - Lack of follow through- cancelled appointments & no-shows
 - Attendance issues- attendance improvement plan
 - Different family members & friends drop-off/pick-up
- Brainstormed Solutions:
 - Who can help support you?
 - Who can drive you there?
 - What ways can you remind yourself of appointment?

ATCAA Early Childhood Services
Early Head Start ❖ Head Start ❖ California State Preschool
Developing People – Changing Lives – Building Community

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- ☐ Completed Physical Paperwork
- ☐ Dental Appointment
- ☐ Completed Dental Paperwork
- ☐ Vision Follow-Up Care Appointment
- ☐ Completed Vision Follow-Up Care Paperwork
- ☐ Hearing Follow-Up Care Appointment
- ☐ Completed Hearing Follow-Up Care Appointment
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Please list any concerns you may have about completing this requirement.

Family problems Attendance Remembering appointment day & time
Transportation

Below please collaborate with staff to write a plan of action.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Signatures</u>
Schedule Appointment	10/24/22		<u>Staff:</u> _____ <u>Parent/Guardian:</u> _____
Find transportation to appointment	10/31/22		<u>Staff:</u> _____ <u>Parent/Guardian:</u> _____
Develop strategies to remember appointment	11/7/22		<u>Staff:</u> _____ <u>Parent/Guardian:</u> _____
Attend appointment and receive diagnosis	11/17/22		<u>Staff:</u> _____ <u>Parent/Guardian:</u> _____

A row of approximately 15 books of various colors (red, orange, green, yellow, blue, purple, pink, teal) standing upright on a white surface. The books are arranged in a slightly staggered fashion. Overlaid on the books is the text "LINKS & RESOURCES" in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The background is a light gray gradient.

LINKS & RESOURCES

National Association of School Nurses Vision and Eye Health

(NCCVEH and NASN partnership)

12 Components of a Strong Vision Health System of Care

1. Family Education

All parents/caregivers should receive culturally competent educational materials with appropriate reading levels. The materials explain why scheduling and attending an eye examination when a student does not pass his/her vision screening is important for good vision now and in the future, and the increased risk for vision problems in defined high-risk populations.

[A Glossary of Eye and Vision Terms: English](#)

[A Glossary of Eye and Vision Terms: Spanish](#)

[Parent/Caregiver Resources: *Small Steps for Big Vision*: An Eye Health Information Tool Kit](#)

Fact Sheets:

[Vision Screening Is Key to Healthy Development! English](#)

[Vision Screening is Key to Healthy Development! Spanish](#)

[Focus on Eye Health and Culturally Diverse Populations](#)

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/resources-by-topic/vision-health>



Vision Screening Certification

- Info for Prevent Blindness nationally recognized vision screening certification you can do online at your own pace
- Prevent Blindness Children's Vision Screening Certification Course (PB CVS)

<https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/prevent-blindness-childrens-vision-screening-certification-course/>

Nottingham@preventblindness.org

- “The Prevent Blindness Children's Vision Screening Certification Course is so amazing and I hope that all schools, clinics, or any place that does vision screenings are able to get this resource and incorporate this course into their training.
- I have been screening vision for eight years now and I can truly say that this course emphasized how critical poor vision can impact children and their behaviors, as well as their learning.
- I work with children in Head Start, so I was reminded how critical the follow-up process for failed vision screenings are.
- Everything I learned from this course will definitely be incorporated into my screenings.”

Zong Her, CMA-Child Wellness Service Provider, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties Head Start, MN

Zenni Scholarship to Advance Children's Vision - Applications Open!

- Scholarships for our [Children's Vision Screening Certification Course](#) (a value of \$175) — for a 3-year, nationally recognized certificate based on current national guidelines, best practices, and evidence-based vision screening tools and procedures for preschool and school-age children, and 5 contact hours for professional development.
- Access to **vouchers for the full cost of one pair of Zenni eyeglasses** for children served by scholarship recipients who do not otherwise have public or private insurance to cover the cost of new or replacement eyeglasses.

Target populations: Individuals who serve children ages 3 years through high school who are considered at increased risk of having vision disorders and have poor access to vision screening and eye care, specifically children from:

- communities and families with low incomes,
- under-served minority populations,
- underinsured or underinsured families,
- rural populations,
- inner-city urban populations,
- immigrant and refugee populations,
- from non-English speaking homes, and
- American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Apply at [Zenni Scholarship to Advance Children's Vision - Prevent Blindness](#)

Call to Action

- ☐ Meet families where they are and do not call parents/caregivers noncompliant.
- ☐ Dig deeper for the “why” a confirmatory eye examination is not occurring.
- ☐ Share resources with families about the importance of good vision and scheduling and attending a follow-up eye examination when their children do not pass vision screening.
- ☐ Work with families to create individualized Health Action Plans to help ensure the eye examination and treatment/monitoring occurs.



- I received a letter from a preschool on May 16,2022. The Teacher stated that a child was struggling with her schoolwork.
- The child was becoming frustrated and increasingly negative about attending preschool.
- I vision screened the child, as well as the other children in her preschool class.
- The child did not pass her vision screening.
- I called the parent to let them know that she needed to see an eye doctor. Several weeks later she was seen by a pediatric ophthalmologist. She was diagnosed with astigmatism and myopia.
- Since she's been wearing her glasses, her teacher stated that it's as if a whole new child has emerged.
- She actually asks the teaching staff if she can work with them. Her school readiness skills have improved but more importantly her enthusiasm for learning has bloomed.

STORY FROM PB CVS LEARNER

Thank you for your TIME
and your ATTENTION. . .

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