

# Vision Screening

## FACTS:

- The rate at which visual impairments occur in individuals under the age of 18 is 12.2 per 1,000. Severe visual impairments (legally or totally blind) occur at a rate of 0.06 per 1,000.
- There are approximately three million children residing in the state of Michigan. Over one million of these children will need eye care by the time they reach high school graduation age. Some 10,000 of these children are entering school each year with inadequate vision.
- Children usually do not know that they see differently. Early identification of an eye problem is important. Conditions like amblyopia, or lazy eye, can be prevented if detected and treated during pre-school years.

Back to School Month

## RESOURCES:

**Michigan Department of Community Health**  
*Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program*

[http://michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942\\_4911\\_21429-55522--,00.html](http://michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_21429-55522--,00.html)

**Michigan Department of Community Health**  
*Vision screening*

[http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942\\_4911\\_4912-12634--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_4912-12634--,00.html)

**National Eye Institute.**  
*Eye health organizations list*

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/resourceAlpha.asp>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
*Learn the Signs. Act Early. Vision Loss Fact Sheet*

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/vision\\_loss.htm1](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/vision_loss.htm1)



## **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW (From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):**

### **Vision Loss**

Vision loss means that a person's eyesight cannot be corrected to a "normal" level, making it hard or impossible to do daily tasks without eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other assistance. Vision loss can vary greatly among children and can be caused by many things. Vision loss can be caused by damage to the eye itself, by the eye being shaped incorrectly, or even by a problem in the brain. Babies can be born unable to see, and vision loss can occur anytime during a person's life.

### **When should my child be checked?**

Your child should be checked for vision problems by an eye doctor (an ophthalmologist), pediatrician, or other trained specialist at:

- Newborn to 3 months
- Six months to 1 year
- About 3 years
- About 5 years

Having your child's vision checked is especially important if someone in your family has had vision problems.