

THE IMPORTANCE OF VISION HEALTH IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin
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For over 62 years, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin has pursued its vision for each Wisconsin resident to have healthy vision at every stage of life. COVID-19 has changed the landscape for vision screening in schools, increasing the importance of a pediatric vision screening at a child's well-child visit. For children ages 3 to 5 years, 1 in 20 will have a vision problem. For children 6 years and older, 1 in 4 will have a vision problem.



CHILDREN AGES 3-5 YEARS

Best Practice Method: Optotype based vision screening with a 5ft chart, using occluder glasses to check each eye individually. Best practice chart is known as the EyeCheck.

Acceptable Practice Method: Instrument based vision screening with the SPOT Vision Screener device or the PlusOptix.

CHILDREN AGES 6+ YEARS

Best Practice Method: Distance Visual Acuity screening with a 10ft Snellen/Sloan wall chart, using an occluder paddle to screen each eye individually. LEA symbols can be used for children who do not know the alphabet.

CERTIFIED VISION SCREENER TRAININGS:

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin provides virtual vision screener training and certification. This one hour class can be scheduled at a convenient time for office staff and can be split into multiple sessions if needed. For current listing of classes, visit: <https://wisconsin.preventblindness.org/certified-vision-screening-training-dates-locations/>

YOUR ROLE IN PEDIATRIC VISION HEALTH:

For most children, 80% of their learning happens visually and this learning extends far beyond educational basics, like reading and arithmetic, to include social and emotional development as well. For many children with a vision problem, treatment is as simple as a pair of glasses and has an incredible impact on their success in the classroom and beyond. Research has shown that just 6 weeks of vision correction can improve a child's standardized tests scores to match those of peers without vision problems.

IMPLEMENTATION OF VISION SCREENING:

Medical support staff can provide an evidence-based vision screening during the check-in process of the appointment. A school-aged vision screening takes about 1 minute, while a preschool screening takes about 3 minutes to complete. This is a billable service and adds value to the child's appointment.

