

Eye Care for Children



Good vision is necessary to a child's physical development, well-being and eventually success in school. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Ophthalmology recommend that children have their eyes checked at the following ages:

- ✓ **Newborns** – all babies should have their eyes checked before leaving the hospital; this is especially true for premature babies, babies with other medical problems and babies with a family history of vision problems in childhood
- ✓ **Age 6 months** – infants should have their eye health, vision development and eye alignment (strabismus) checked as part of this well-child visit
- ✓ **Age 1 to 2** – another screening for eye health should be done during this time period; photoscreening (pictures of the pupil) can be used to start finding any potential eye problems
- ✓ **Age 3 to 4 (preschoolers)** – preschoolers should have their vision and eye alignment checked; vision testing at this age can determine whether a child can focus normally at far, near and middle distances
- ✓ **Age 5 and older** – children should have the vision in each eye checked separately every year