



Signs of Possible Eye Trouble in Children

It is possible for your child to have a serious vision problem without your being aware of it. Any concern about abnormalities in the appearance of the eyes or vision should be investigated. If you have any questions about your child's vision, see an eye doctor. In any case, start early to provide your child with a regular schedule of professional eye exams.

Signs of possible eye trouble in children include:

Behavior

- Rubs eyes excessively
- Shuts or covers one eye
- Tilts or thrusts head forward
- Has difficulty with reading or other close-up work
- Holds objects close to eyes
- Blinks more than usual or is irritable when doing close-up work
- Is unable to see distant things clearly
- Squints eyelids together or frowns

Appearance

- Crossed or misaligned eyes
- Red-rimmed, encrusted or swollen eyelids
- Inflamed or watery eyes
- Recurring styes (infections) on eyelids
- Color photos of eyes show white reflection instead of typical red or no reflection

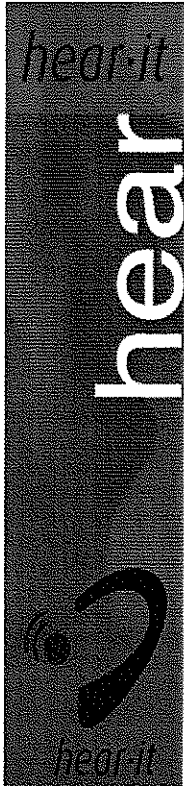
Complaints

- Eyes itch, burn or feel scratchy
- Cannot see well
- Dizziness, headaches or nausea following close-up work
- Blurred or double vision

If a child exhibits one or more of these signs, please seek professional eye care. A professional eye exam is recommended shortly after birth, by six months of age, before entering school (four or five years old) and periodically throughout school years. Regular eye exams are important since some eye problems have no signs or symptoms.

For more information about children's eye health and safety, contact Prevent Blindness America at http://www.preventblindness.org/children/trouble_signs.html or the Prevent Blindness affiliate near you.

Signs of Possible Hearing Difficulties in Children



Caring about your child's hearing is extremely important because it affects his or her ability to learn, socialize and communicate.

Most children experience temporary hearing loss due to earwax or Otitis Media. Otitis Media is painful for your child and may lead to hearing loss. It must be treated quickly and correctly.

Generally, earwax serves a useful purpose and does not harm your child. If, however, your child suffers from hearing loss due to excessive earwax, go to your family doctor for help. Do not try to remove earwax yourself. You could cause permanent damage to your child's hearing.

Other types of hearing loss are permanent or could result in permanent hearing impairment. This could affect your child's social interaction and development.

Here are some signs that your child might be experiencing hearing difficulties:

- Your child is inconsistently responding to sound
- Language and speech development is delayed
- Speech is unclear
- Sound is turned up on electronic equipment (radio, TV, CD player, etc.)
- Your child does not follow directions
- Your child often says "Huh?"
- Your child does not respond when called.

If you have concerns, seek attention from your child's physician.

For more information about children's hearing, contact <http://www.hear-it.org>