

Eye problems that 'the system' is missing now

Are children with eye and vision problems 'falling through the cracks'?

In a word, yes.

Fact: Vision disorders are the fourth most common disability in the United States and the most prevalent handicapping condition during childhood.



Fact: Below the age of 6, only about 14 percent are likely to have had an eye and vision examination.

Fact: Pediatricians provide an important base-level eye screening that is designed to detect gross eye abnormalities. A comprehensive eye assessment by an optometrist is designed to detect much more and is an important part of your well baby care.

Fact: The American Public Health Association adopted a resolution that recognizes the shortcomings of vision screenings, encourages regular eye examinations at the ages of 6 months, 2 years, and 4 years, and urges pediatricians to recommend that all children receive eye examinations at these intervals.

Fact: Healthy People 2020, a national disease prevention initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, also recognizes the importance of preventive vision care. One of its goals is "to improve the visual health of the Nation through prevention, early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation." These national efforts to inform the public about the importance of early eye care and the current limitations of vision screening are issues that all optometrists need to discuss within every community until all children receive professional eye examinations on a regular basis throughout childhood.