

VISION SCREENINGS

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EYE EXAM VS. VISION SCREENING

VISION SCREENINGS are performed by trained personnel and help to *identify vision problems* in children, then *provide referrals* to an eye care provider for a comprehensive evaluation.

EYE EXAMS are performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to *diagnose eye disorders/ disease* and then *prescribe treatment*. This includes a refractive status evaluation (i.e. assess the need for glasses), color vision and ocular alignment assessments, and ocular health evaluations.



IMPORTANCE OF VISION SCREENING

To detect vision loss & identify children at risk for amblyopia. Approximately 3-5% of the U.S. population is at risk for this disease that can lead to irreversible vision loss if untreated.

Luckily, if it is caught, amblyopia is both treatable AND reversible!

Treatment options include: *eye patching, glasses, Atropine eye drops, or sometimes surgery.*

But amblyopia can only be treated in the early years of life (up to about age 10), known as the “critical period” when the brain’s visual center is still developing.

When a child has poor vision, they often do not complain about their eyesight and struggle to describe it... they don’t know what “blurry vision” is.

This vision loss can impact children’s school performance and correcting their eyesight is associated with better academic performance!

Who should be screened?

Every child

How often should children be screened?

Yearly

What are vision screenings checking for?

- Eye turns (a.k.a. strabismus)
- “Lazy eye” (a.k.a. amblyopia)
 - Refractive Error
- Leukocoria (white/abnormal color pupil reflection [rather than red])
- Ptosis (drooping eyelid)

What happens if a vision screening results in a referral?

A note will be sent home to the child’s parents to recommend a full eye exam at BBAHC Optometry

What happens if a child can’t sit still or properly participate in vision screenings?

Refer them for a full eye exam with a professional at BBAHC Optometry