

Risk Factors for Vision Problems



Your child may have a risk factor for eye disease or vision problems.

Some children are more likely to have vision problems. Your child's medical provider should be aware of the following factors that make your child more likely to develop a vision problem:

- Your child was born prematurely (less than 32 weeks).
- You or your child's biological father or mother had childhood cataract, lazy eye (amblyopia or misaligned eyes) or eye tumors.
- You or your child's biological father or mother wore glasses early, such as before first grade.
- Your child has a brother or sister who wears glasses.
- Your child had an eye injury (problems from childhood eye injuries may develop later in life).
- Your child's biological mother smoked cigarettes during pregnancy.
- Your child's biological mother did drugs during pregnancy (this is a sensitive subject and you may not want to share this information with your child's medical provider, but children whose mother did drugs during pregnancy are at a high risk of developing vision problems)
- If your child has any of these risk factors, ask your child's medical provider for a referral to an eye doctor for an eye examination.
- Ask your child's medical provider if the eye doctor is trained and experienced in seeing young children.



"Small Steps for Big Vision" is an initiative of the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness (www.nationalcenter.preventblindness.org). For more information, contact: info@preventblindness.org

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