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Vision problems in children: Symptom Checker

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Vision problems

**Feature Title**

Vision problems

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Vision problems

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Content Packages > Symptom checker mobile > Child > Head and neck

**MCV Related tag(s)**

**Primary Location**

Symptom Checker

**Tease**

Vision problems in children can be difficult to detect. Identify possible common causes based on signs and symptoms your child may have.

**Abstract**

Find possible common causes of vision problems in children. See our Symptom Checker.

**Benefit Summary**

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**FeatureID**

**Gender**

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Child

**ENTER IN FARCRY:**

**When to get medical help**

Seek prompt medical care if your child has an eye injury or experiences sudden vision changes accompanied by: (1; 2, p. 398; 3)

Severe eye pain or irritation

Swelling or redness in or around the eyes

Discharge of blood or pus from the eyes

Unequal pupil sizes

Problems with eye movement

See a specialist in vision problems (optometrist or ophthalmologist) if your child experiences any vision problems that impair his or her ability to read or write comfortably or participate in everyday activities.

**Self-care strategies**

Because of the nature of this symptom, it's best to contact an eye doctor as soon as possible. Please see the "Seek Care" section to determine an appropriate course of action.

**More Information**

Eye pain MY00279

**END OF FARCRY TEXT**

Find possible causes of vision problems in children based on specific factors. Check one or more factors on this page that apply to your child's symptom.

**Problem is**

Blurry distant objects

Blurry nearby objects

Blurry vision at all distances

Bright zigzag lines

Fading colors

Flashes of light

Inability to distinguish certain shades of color

Objects appear distorted

Sensitivity to light

Shimmering spots or stars

Spots or strings floating in field of vision

Vision loss, partial or total

**Problem affects**

One eye

**You observe your child**

Favoring one eye over the other

Having one eye that wanders

Holding objects away from his or her face

Holding objects close to his or her face

Squinting frequently

**Onset is**

Gradual or progressive

Recent (hours to days)

Sudden (seconds to minutes)

**Duration is**

Usually no longer than 30 minutes

**Accompanied by**

Eye pain or discomfort

Eye redness

Eyestrain

Headache

Other sensory disturbances

Swelling around the eye

**Possible causes** (3)

These diseases and conditions match at least one of the factors you selected. Those with the most matches are listed first.

DS00230 Astigmatism (4)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is objects appear distorted

You observe your child squinting frequently

Onset is gradual or progressive

Accompanied by eyestrain

Accompanied by headache

DS01036 Eye floaters (5)

Problem is spots or strings floating in field of vision

Onset is gradual or progressive

Onset is recent (hours to days)

DS00527 Farsightedness (6)

Problem is blurry nearby objects

You observe your child holding objects away from his or her face

You observe your child squinting frequently

Onset is gradual or progressive

Accompanied by eyestrain

Accompanied by headache

DS01128 Iritis (7)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is sensitivity to light

Problem is spots or strings floating in field of vision

Onset is recent (hours to days)

Accompanied by eye pain or discomfort

Accompanied by eye redness

DS00887 Lazy eye (amblyopia) (8)

Problem affects one eye

You observe your child favoring one eye over the other

You observe your child having one eye that wanders

Onset is gradual or progressive

DS00908 Migraine with aura (9)

Problem is bright zigzag lines

Problem is flashes of light

Problem is sensitivity to light

Problem is shimmering spots or stars

Problem is vision loss, partial or total

Onset is sudden (seconds to minutes)

Duration is usually no longer than 30 minutes

Accompanied by eye pain or discomfort

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by other sensory disturbances

DS00528 Nearsightedness (10)

Problem is blurry distant objects

You observe your child holding objects close to his or her face

You observe your child squinting frequently

Accompanied by eyestrain

Accompanied by headache

DS00882 Optic neuritis (11)

Problem is fading colors

Problem is vision loss, partial or total

Problem affects one eye

Onset is recent (hours to days)

Accompanied by eye pain or discomfort

DS00233 Poor color vision (12)

Problem is inability to distinguish certain shades of color

DS00677 Uveitis(13)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is sensitivity to light

Problem is spots or strings floating in field of vision

Problem is vision loss, partial or total

Accompanied by eye pain or discomfort

Accompanied by swelling around the eye

Parenting Corner Q&A: Your child's eyes. How do I know if my child has a vision problem? American Academy of Pediatrics. http://www.aap.org/publiced/BR\_Eyes.htm. Accessed Nov. 19, 2009.

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PAGE 5