

Good Vision = Good Learning

Healthy Vision is an important part of a child's education.

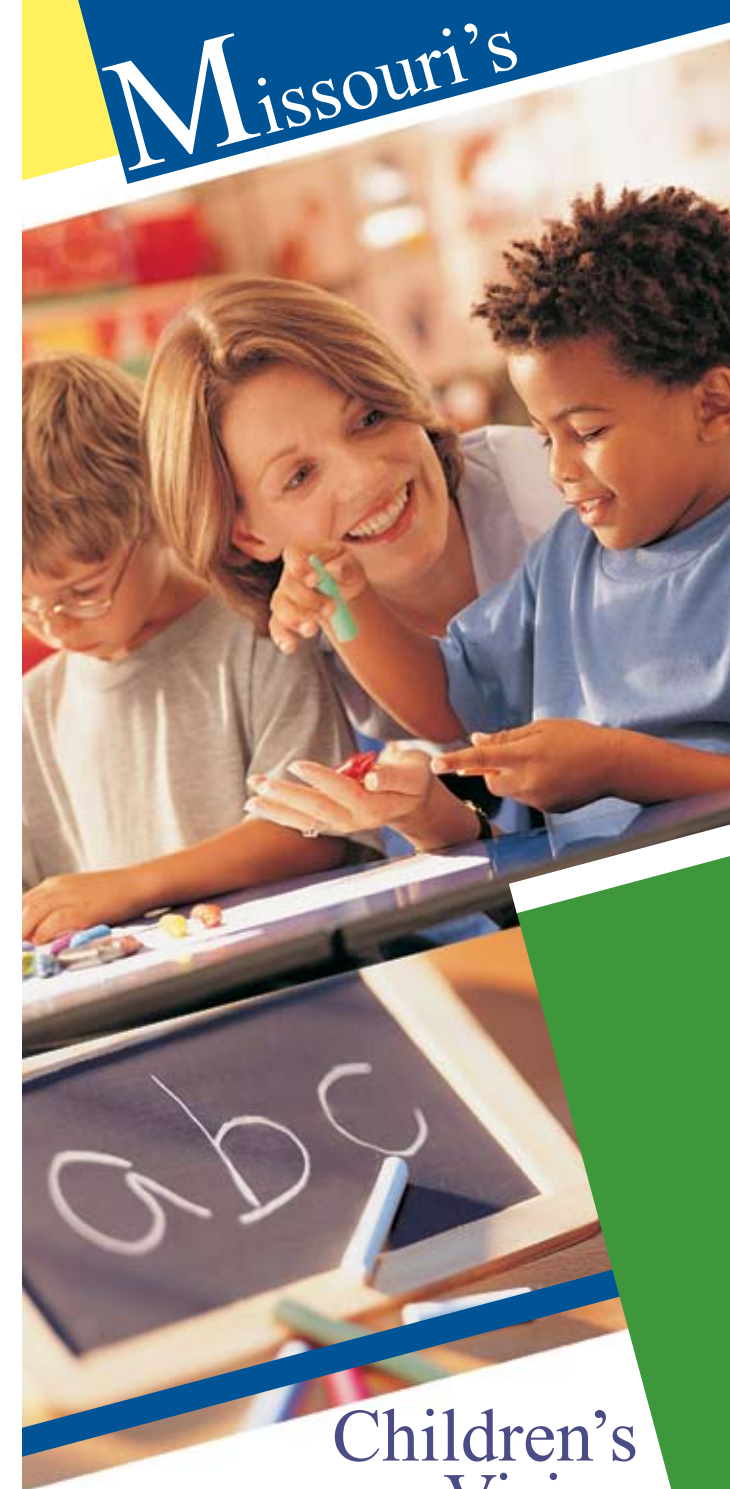
- Just as good schools and teachers are an important part of a child's education, healthy vision is also important. When children can't see well, they often struggle to learn.
- Starting July 1, 2008, all children in kindergarten or first grade entering Missouri schools for the first time are required to have a comprehensive eye exam. This important measure will help make sure children are ready to learn!.



Missouri's Children's Vision Law

- Requires a comprehensive eye exam for children entering kindergarten or first grade for the first time.
- Also requires children in first and third grade to have a vision screening and ensures that those who need follow-up care receive it.
- Created the Children's Vision Commission to establish guidelines for the exams and the reporting process and the members are dedicated to children's eye health.

For more information on children's vision or to find a doctor of optometry, contact:
Missouri Optometric Association
573.635.6151 ■ www.moeyecare.org



Missouri's

Children's
Vision
Law



Keeping an Eye on Children's Vision



Healthy Vision Means...

Healthy vision for children means more than just seeing clearly.

It is a critical part of learning.

The eyes must be able to function properly. They should:

- Work together as a team
- Move accurately across a page and shift quickly from one object to another
- Work together with the hands
- Focus at proper distances and change focus quickly; and
- Be aware of objects on either side while looking straight ahead.

If a child's eyes have trouble doing any of these things, he or she will have to work harder to do well in school.

A comprehensive eye exam checks for all of these eye capabilities as well as eye diseases and other treatable disorders that can affect your child's ability to learn. Screenings alone cannot detect the full range of eye and vision problems a child may be experiencing. It is critical that doctors trained in the diagnosis and treatment of the eye and visual system perform these exams.

The Facts

- An estimated 10 million children suffer from vision problems, according to the National Parent Teacher Association.
- Sixty percent of students identified as problem learners have undiagnosed vision problems, studies show.
- One in 20 preschoolers and one in four school-age children have vision problems, according to Prevent Blindness America.

Vision Changes Over Time

Estimates show that 10 – 15 percent of children (8 – 12 million kids) are at-risk from an undetected vision impairment. These children may not realize there is a problem because blurry is the only way they have ever seen. Comprehensive eye examinations diagnose:

- Amblyopia ("lazy eye"), which affects 5 percent of children.
- Color vision deficiencies (color blindness), which affects 8 percent of all boys
- Myopia ("near-sightedness"), hyperopia ("far-sightedness") and astigmatism. These are common problems that can be easily treated with proper care.

