Vision plays an important role in childhood development. At Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, our pediatric ophthalmologists diagnose and treat more than 7,000 children annually with all childhood eye diseases and disorders, while conducting research to advance knowledge about pediatric ophthalmology. Specialized experience, diagnostic capabilities and truly talented staff give children treated at Bascom Palmer a tremendous advantage.

Your pediatrician should examine your child’s eyes during the first year of life. If you or your pediatrician suspects any abnormality or if there is a family history of eye disease, the child should see an ophthalmologist.

All children should have a comprehensive eye exam by their 4th birthday if vision appears to be developing normally, and every two years thereafter.

Early diagnosis and treatment of childhood eye disease may mean better visual results.
**Amblyopia** “lazy eye” is a condition in which the visual function of one eye is underdeveloped while vision for the other eye is normal. With amblyopia, the earlier it is detected and treated the better the results have proven to be.

**Strabismus** “misaligned eyes”, commonly called “crossed-eyes”, is a visual defect in which the eyes are misaligned and point in different directions.

**Pediatric Glaucoma** is treated differently from adult glaucoma. Most young patients require surgery and are referred to specialists for treatment.

**Ptosis** is a condition in which the upper eyelid droops. Whether the lid droops slightly or cover the pupil entirely it can affect normal vision.

**Retinoblastoma** is a rare form of cancer affecting the light-sensitive retinal cells that enable sight. Although it is very rare, it is the most common ocular malignancy in children and third most common cancer to affect children-occurring in one out of every 15,000 births.

**Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)** is the leading cause of childhood blindness in developed countries. Premature or low birth weight babies often need to receive oxygen until their immature lungs develop. Infants must be exposed to the proper levels of oxygen so that their retinas are not damaged.
Eyeglasses for Infants and Children

If eyeglasses are needed to improve your child’s vision your optometrist or ophthalmologist will write a prescription for your child specifying the lens power. This prescription is taken to an optical shop where you will select a frame with your optician that best suits your child’s needs.

Eye Safety for Children

- Have children wear protective eyewear during sports or other hazardous activities.
- Always supervise children when they are using pencils, scissors, forks and knives. Even common household items such as paper clips, rubber bands, or wire hangers can cause serious eye injury.
- Childproof your home and keep all chemicals, sprays, and household cleaners out of reach of small children.
- Select games and toys that are age appropriate.

To Schedule An Appointment

To schedule an appointment with a Bascom Palmer ophthalmologist, please call 1-888-845-0002.

Appointments may also be requested online at: www.bascompalmer.org

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute’s Emergency Department in Miami is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
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