



## KNOW THE SIGNS OF A POSSIBLE VISION PROBLEM

- ✓ Get your baby's vision screened starting at age 12 months
- ✓ Have vision checked in each eye separately as soon as your child can cooperate-usually age 4 or 5 years
- ✓ Tell your doctor if your child's had an eye injury or if there is a family history of childhood eye disorders
- ✓ Be alert. Look for these signs and symptoms in your child:

### **Urgent – Call your doctor immediately**

- White pupil (you see a white "glow" in the pupil in photos of your child)
- Large cornea in one or both eyes (the cornea is your eye's clear, protective outer layer)
- Glassy or white appearing cornea or change in color of the eye
- Eyelid swelling shut
- If your baby was less than 32 weeks gestation at birth, make sure that screening eye exams were done for retinopathy of prematurity

### **Notify your doctor soon (within days or weeks)**

- Eyes don't line up (look crossed, turn out, or don't focus together)
- Child says: "everything looks blurry", or "I see double"
- Redness in either eye that doesn't go away in a few days
- Lump, swelling, or drooping eye lid
- Child rubs eyes a lot
- Squints one eye closed in the sunlight or bright light
- Pus or crust in either eye
- Dancing eyes (flutter quickly from side to side or up and down)
- Eye pain, itchiness, discomfort (child says "my eyes are itchy" "my eyes hurt")
- Eyes are always watery
- Eyes that often appear overly sensitive to light
- Unequal pupils or noticeable defect in pupil (the pupil is the black circle in the center of eye)

### **Tell your doctor at your next visit:**

- Tilts head to one side or thrusts head forward at a funny angle when trying to see something
- Holds objects close to the eye to see
- Blinks more than usual
- Closes or covers one eye
- Uses finger to maintain place when reading
- Squints eyes to see clearly
- Headaches, nausea, dizziness (when doing closeup work, your child might say: "that's blurry" or "that's hard to see" or "I feel dizzy, "I feel sick", "I have a headache"
- Sitting unusually close to television, computer screen, or school chalkboard

### **QUESTIONS: TALK WITH YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT THESE TOPICS DURING WELL-CHILD CHECK-UPS:**

- Is there a history of eye disorders in childhood (in parents or siblings)?
- Do your child's eyes appear unusual?
- Does your child seem to see well?
- Does your child experience difficulty with near or distance vision?
- Do your child's eyes appear straight or do they seem to cross?
- Do your child's eyes droop or does one eyelid tend to close?
- Has your child ever had an eye injury?