

Red Flags of Possible Vision Loss in Young Children

Atypical appearance of the eyes:

- ❑ Drooping eyelid which obscures the pupil
- ❑ Obvious abnormalities in the shape or structure of the eyes
- ❑ Absence of a clear, black pupil
- ❑ Persistent redness of conjunctiva (white part of eye)
- ❑ Persistent tearing without crying
- ❑ High sensitivity to bright light indicated by squinting, closing eyes, or turning head away

Unusual Eye Movements:

- ❑ Jerky eye movements (nystagmus)
- ❑ Absence of eyes moving together or sustained eye turn after 4 to 6 months of age

Unusual Gaze or Head Positions:

- ❑ Tilts or turns head in certain positions when looking at an object
- ❑ Holds object close to eyes
- ❑ Averts gaze or seems to be looking beside, under, or above the object of focus

Absence of Visually Directed Behaviors:

- ❑ Eye contact by 3 months
- ❑ Visual fixation or following by 3 months
- ❑ Accurate reaching for objects by 6 months

High Risk Factors:

- ❑ Family History of vision impairments and/or blindness
- ❑ Prenatal exposure to maternal infections (toxoplasmosis, syphilis, rubella, cytomegalovirus, herpes, chicken pox, HIV)

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- Abnormal prenatal brain development
- Prematurity
- Hypoxia
- Certain syndromes (e.g. CHARGE, Down, Fetal Alcohol, Goldenhar, Hurler, Refsum, Trisomy 13, Usher)
- Other congenital ophthalmological syndromes (optic nerve hypoplasia, Leber's)
- Bacterial meningitis
- Head trauma
- Cerebral palsy