

# Emerging Sight – Vision and the Young Child

## MODERATORS



**Sandra S. Block OD, MEd, MPH**

Illinois College of Optometry



**Jean Ramsey MD, MPH**

Boston University School of Medicine



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# **Sandra S. Block, OD, M Ed, MPH**

Co-Chair, National Center for  
Children's Vision and Eye Health

Professor, Illinois College of  
Optometry

Member, Prevent Blindness Board

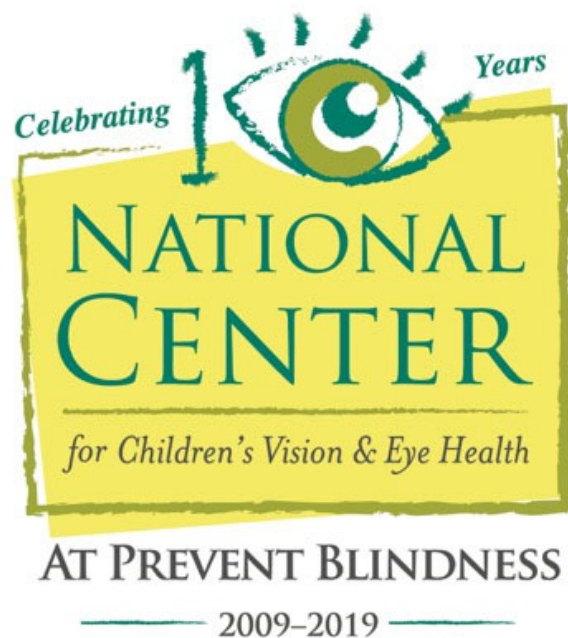


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# National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health



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# National Center for Children's Vision & Eye Health

Mission:

To improve Children's Vision through strong partners, sound science, and targeted public policy

Vision:

Develop a full continuum of care for young children by identifying conditions in children early, linking them to appropriate care, and ensuring they receive the care they need.

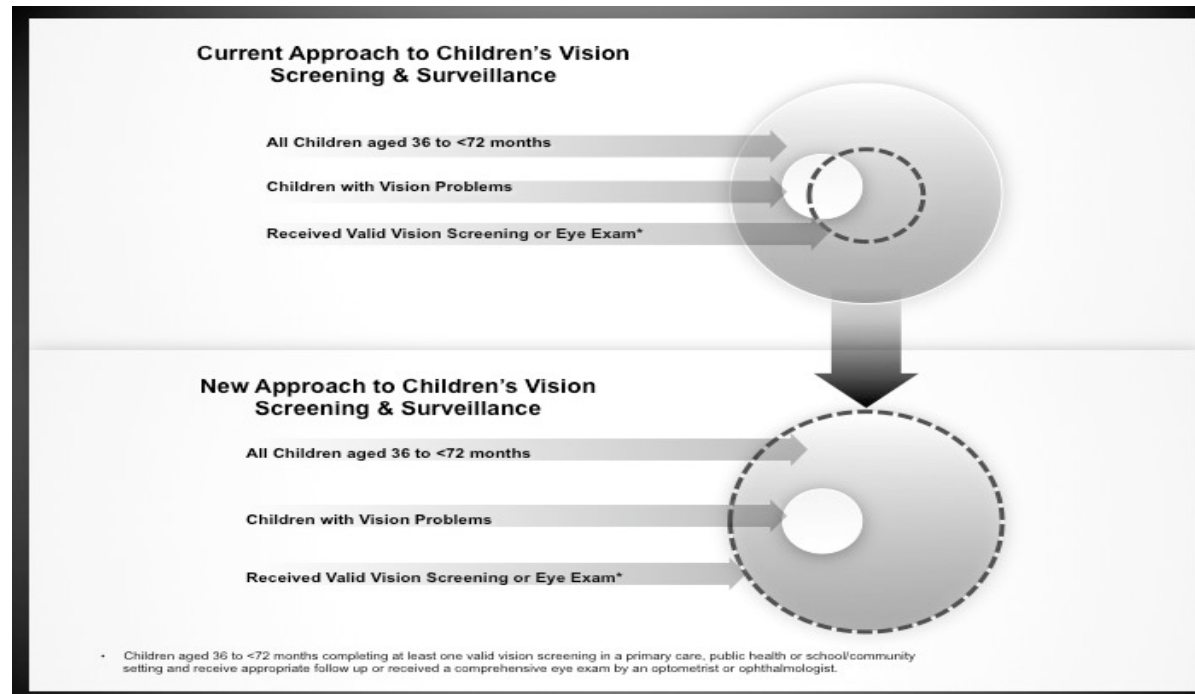


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# Comprehensive Approach:



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# Inaugural Meeting of Expert Partners Chicago, July 2009

- Initially members of the Center who had an interest, expertise and knowledge related to children's vision and eye health were invited to participate.
- Included eye care providers/researchers, pediatricians, nurses, educators, head start and public health representatives
- At the same time, five Prevent Blindness state affiliate were identified to work towards the same mission.



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# Achievements: Leadership and Collaboration

- HRSA's role – collaboration, coordination, 10 yrs funding
- National Expert Panel
- Creating partnerships and collaborations have developed with stakeholders who have common goals and interests
- Government partners have forged to support the vision.



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# Key Achievements: Evidence and Guidelines

- 3 articles authored by the expert panel in refereed journals. These have become the gold standard for vision screening and surveillance.
- The Center reviews the evidence for new tools and guidelines and updates them regularly.



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# Key Achievements: Evidence and Guidelines

- Snapshot Report was developed to reflect on the current state of children's vision in US.
- Many resources and consensus documents have been developed to support screening efforts, education and advocacy.



# Key Achievements: Advancing the Field/Practice



- Pilot projects: PB Affiliates
- Year of Children's Vision
- Bonnie Strickland Award
- Quality Improvement project
- Community of Practice



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# National Impacts



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Early Childhood Health and Wellness



## Guidance



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# Achievements in Education: Reaching Families and Caregivers

- Fact sheets and guidance
- Family Vision Resource Kit
- Myopia Fact Sheet
- Infant and Toddler brochure

A GUIDE TO VISION HEALTH  
FOR YOUR NEWBORN, INFANT,  
AND TODDLER



#### DID YOU KNOW...

Children generally do not complain about problems with their vision. Eye problems that are not corrected may lead to a permanent loss of sight.

#### What you can do:

1. Watch your child while at play, and while looking at books, pets or other people. If something does not seem right, discuss this with your child's doctor.
2. Talk with your doctor about any family history of vision problems (such as "lazy eye", a "crossed eye", use of an eye patch as a child to correct vision, or need for eyeglasses with a strong prescription).
3. Ask at every well child visit if the child's eyes and vision have been checked.
4. Ask for results of the vision screening and make sure you understand what they mean.
5. Your child's doctor may recommend that he/she see an eye doctor to evaluate a problem found during the screening. If so, be sure to make and keep that appointment.
6. After the eye appointment, make sure all results are sent back to your child's doctor and a copy is provided to you.

#### SIGNS OF A VISION PROBLEM

Many vision problems in children cannot be seen. But sometimes there are signs of a vision problem as shown below. Contact your child's doctor if you notice any of these signs:

**Strabismus**, often called a "crossed eye" or "squint."



**Leukocoria**, or a pupil that looks white when light reflects on the eye.



**Photopsia**, or a flashing spark that blocks part of what the eye can see.



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# Kay Achievements: Technical Assistance and Education

- Guidelines – Creation, review for national/professional organizations
- Technical assistance in 30 states
- Presentations in 40 states
- Articles in professional journals
- Vision Screening Certification Course: 4,000 certified
- Laws: Newest win – Arizona passed vision screening legislation

12-Components of a Strong Vision Health System of Care

Year of Children's Vision

Annual Vision Health Program Evaluation Checklist

Evaluation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Review each component described below. Select the "Yes", "No", or other response that best describes your vision health program as it currently operates. Please note comments in the area indicated. Once you have responded to the questions in each of the components proceed to the "Vision Health System Action Plan" located on page 7 to identify areas for attention or improvement in your program.

1. Our program ensures that all parents/caregivers receive educational material, which respects cultural and literacy needs, about the importance of:

- Good vision for their child now and in the future.
- Scheduling and attending an eye exam when their child does not pass vision screening.
- Increased risk for vision problems in defined high-risk populations.

Check Yes or No	Point of evaluation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	We have vision health information in all native languages of the families that we serve.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	We discuss the importance of healthy vision as a part of proper child development in the general health information provided by our program.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	We provide parents with easy-to-understand* information on the visual milestones for children at all stages of life. *Information is written at an appropriate reading level, provides graphics as well as descriptions, and has been tested for ease of understanding.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Our parent/and or health advisory committee(s) have reviewed our vision health information for, content, clarity of instruction, cultural literacy, and reading level (4 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> grade level.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	We provide health information to parents of children with special healthcare needs that describe their increased risk for vision problems.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	We have active Parent and Health Advisory Committees

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



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