

Amblyopia Impacts a Child in Every Classroom

More than 75% of Children Do Not Receive a Vision Screening to Detect Vision Issues

'See by Three' Program Will Raise Awareness of Vision Disorders

Key Objective: to raise awareness for the need for early detection and treatment of vision disorders

Dallas/Ft. Worth: The Children's Eye Foundation announces the launch of its national vision screening program, See by Three in Fort Worth. The program advocates effective screening of children in what's called the "medical home," that is any pediatrician's office or health clinic so they will "see by three."

Dr. Denise Chamblee, Children's Eye Foundation vice president, said, "See by Three was piloted in West Virginia and Florida and we've learned quite a bit from those two projects. One of the most important things we learned is that when a doctor tells a parent that their child has a vision problem, about half of the time the parent doesn't follow up with an eye specialist as directed. If parents knew their child could lose sight as a result of not following up, we're confident follow-up rates will improve. See by Three will encourage parents to follow the advice of their physician and get further treatment when it is recommended."

Dr. Chamblee goes on to say that, "We'll know we've made progress when parents routinely ask their pediatricians to perform vision screenings on their children."

Parents should know that:

- Amblyopia can be present in a child with few or no indications that a parent would notice
- During a vision screening it is important that each eye is fully covered while the opposite eye is being tested
- "Peeking" or other uncooperative behavior during a vision screening may be cause for concern, poor cooperation is a sign of poor vision

Beginning in January, See by Three will go into the Fort Worth community and train pediatricians and their staff on how to perform vision screenings quickly and effectively. Vision screenings have proven to be a low-cost and effective way for vision disorders to be identified for treatment. See by Three will train more than 300 medical professionals who will screen more than 26,000 children over four years.

Thomas Rogers, Children's Eye Foundation executive director, goes on to say, "As parents, we do everything we can to ensure our children have every possible opportunity in life. Unfortunately, ensuring that our children can see clearly has been overlooked as more than 75% of children don't receive the vision screening needed to identify vision problems."

The Children's Eye Foundation is building a coalition community partners to ensure the children of Tarrant County have the opportunity to see the world clearly. If you are interested in participating in this coalition, contact us at info@childrenseyefoundation.org

About the Children's Eye Foundation

The CEF promotes the prevention, treatment, research, and public awareness of children's eye diseases and disorders, including strabismus and amblyopia.

The mission of the CEF is to eliminate preventable blindness in children.

The CEF is the official Foundation of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS). AAPOS is the largest physician organization in the world dedicated to children's eye care and adults with strabismus. There are currently more than 12,000 members of AAPOS, representing 41 countries.

For more information, contact Thomas Rogers, CEF Executive Director at t.rogers@childrenseyefoundation.org.

SOURCE Children's Eye Foundation: www.childrenseyefoundation.org.

