

# WHAT CAN AN IOWA KIDSIGHT VISION SCREENING DETECT?

An Iowa KidSight vision screening can help identify various amblyopia risk factors in children. Below are some of the conditions that can possibly be detected:

## Anisocoria

**Anisocoria** is when your eye's pupils are not the same size. The pupil allows light to enter the eye so that you can see. Anyone can have pupils that differ in size with no problems. In fact, one out of five people have pupils that are normally different sizes. Sometimes, though, having uneven pupil size can be a symptom of a serious eye problem.

## Anisometropia\*

**Anisometropia** means that the two eyes have a different refractive power (glasses prescription), so there is unequal focus between the two eyes. This is often due to one eye having a slightly different shape or size from the other causing asymmetric curvature (astigmatism), asymmetric far-sightedness (hyperopia), or asymmetric near-sightedness (myopia).

## Astigmatism

**Astigmatism** is an imperfection in the curvature of your eye's cornea or lens. To understand astigmatism, it is helpful to think of the normal eye as evenly rounded, like a basketball. With astigmatism, the eye is egg- or oval-shaped like an American football. There are two basic types of astigmatism:

- Horizontal Astigmatism (when the eye is wider than it is tall),
- Vertical Astigmatism (when the eye is taller than it is wide)

With either type of astigmatism, near and far vision is blurry because of the eye's irregular shape.

## Hyperopia

Farsightedness (**hyperopia**) is a refractive error. This is when the eye does not refract—or bend—light properly. Generally, a farsighted person sees distant objects clearly, but near vision is blurry.

But others experience farsightedness differently. Some people may not notice any problems with their vision, especially when they are young. And for others with severe farsightedness, vision can be blurry at any distance, near or far. Farsightedness is an eye focusing disorder, not an eye disease. The most common amblyogenic factors are Strabismus and Anisometropia.



Educational information is sourced from American Academy of Ophthalmology.

## Media Opacity (Cataracts)

Many people think **cataracts** only happen to older people. Children can get cataracts too. The name for cataracts in children is pediatric cataracts.

At any age, cataracts are a clouding of the eye's lens. An eye's lens must be clear to focus the images it sees onto the retina, which then sends the images to the brain. A cataract can prevent light from reaching the retina. It can also cause light rays to scatter as they pass through the cloudiness. This distorts the image and can cause blurry vision or blindness.

## Myopia

Nearsightedness (**myopia**) is when close-up objects look clear but distant objects are blurry. For instance, you can read a map clearly but have trouble seeing well enough to drive a car.

Nearsightedness is a common eye focusing disorder. It has been on the rise for several decades. It is estimated that by 2050, nearly half the people in the world will have nearsightedness.

## Strabismus\*

**Strabismus** (crossed eyes) is a common eye condition among children. It is when the eyes are not lined up properly and they point in different directions (misaligned). One eye may look straight ahead while the other eye turns in, out, up, or down. The misalignment can shift from one eye to the other.

## \*Important Information

The most common amblyogenic factors are Strabismus and Anisometropia.

Amblyopia is when vision in one or both eyes does not develop properly during childhood. It is sometimes called lazy eye. Amblyopia is a common problem in babies and young children. A child's vision develops in the first few years of life. It is important to diagnose and treat amblyopia as early as possible. Otherwise, a child with amblyopia will not develop normal, healthy vision.

## LEARN MORE

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