

## DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A VISION PROBLEM?

Eyes are very important. This guide can help you to determine if your child might have a vision problem.

### **Do your child's eyes look abnormal?**

Eyes that turn in or out, eyelids that droop, or pupils that are different sizes may indicate your child has a vision problem. If there is swelling or crusting of the eyelids or pinkness in the eye itself, your child may have an infection.

### **What is your child saying?**

If your child complains about headaches, sore eyes, blurred vision, words that jump or move around the page when reading or not being able to see the board, your child may have a vision problem.

### **What are you and the teacher noticing?**

If you or the teacher notices your child tilts his/her head, covers one eye, rubs their eyes, frowns when concentrating on objects, has difficulty keeping their place when reading (uses a finger to follow along) or holds printed material in a strange position, your child may have a vision problem.

Other common signs of a vision problem are a lack of interest in activities that require concentrating on an object, lack of interest in reading, and daydreaming in class.

If you notice any of these problems or if there is a family history of vision problems, contact your eye doctor (optometrist). British Columbia's Medical Services Plan provides some coverage for eye exams for children under the age of 18, and the [Healthy Kids Program](#) provides limited funds once in a twelve-month period for prescription eyewear for children 0 – 18 years living in low-income families.

For more information:

- ◆ Your local [Public Health Unit](#)
- ◆ Your local eye doctor (optometrist)
- ◆ [HealthLinkBC](#) or dial 8-1-1 (a free call)