



# ACBO POLICY ON TIMING OF CHILDREN'S VISION EXAMINATIONS

Guidelines for Behavioural Optometry practitioners

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## When should children have an eye examination?

**1. As soon as possible if they have a family history of vision problems or there are visible signs such as behaviour, eye turns.**

There are certain behaviours consistent with good vision that infants up to 12 months of age should exhibit. This includes:

- showing interest in their visual environment by 8 weeks
- looking at parent faces,
- following movement.

Premature babies are more at risk

### References

<http://www.eyefoundation.org.au/eyehealth/childrens-vision/234-eye-tests-for-children>

[http://www.covd.org/?page=child\\_timeline](http://www.covd.org/?page=child_timeline)

**2. At 12 months to gauge the presence of significant hyperopia.**

Significant hyperopia will affect visual skill development as well as visuo-perceptual, motor and attentional skills. Correction of significant hyperopia may help development

### References

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17299337>

[http://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ccch/DiscussPaper\\_VisionScreenProject.pdf](http://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ccch/DiscussPaper_VisionScreenProject.pdf)

**3. Between 3 and 5 years if significant hyperopia is found, then regularly**

Strabismus may occur at this stage, dependent on how well the accommodative convergence system operates.

### References

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3723374/>

**4. When they start school or if behaviour suggests a possible problem.**

A questionnaire can be used to also gauge the need for assessment.

After a child has started school, the optometrist can then decide based on various individual factors how often future assessments should occur to establish if a child has the necessary visual skills as well as the visual perceptual motor and attentional skills to learn.

### References

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4109427/>

<http://www.visionandlearning.org/visualperception08.html>

<https://www.acbo.org.au/for-patients/about-vision/102-cool-for-school>

<http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/2000-13211-001>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cxo.12029/full>