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PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND ADULT STRABISMUS

THE PEDIATRIC EYE EXAM

This is what you can expect to be done during your child's eye exam:

VISUAL ACUITY: Your child's vision will be assessed. This is possible even in children who do not yet speak. For older children picture charts, letter games, and letter recognition will be used.

EYE ALIGNMENT-EYE MUSCLE BALANCE: Various methods are used to assess the alignment of the eyes and make sure that the eye muscles move the eyes together and function normally. This is done by evaluating the light reflex using a penlight, prisms, a camera, or alternately covering each eye to make sure the eye remains straight.

BINOCULAR VISION: Tests are used to make sure that the eyes are not only aligned correctly but that the brain is using the eyes together as well. Using both eyes together, or binocular vision, is necessary for "3-D", "stereo vision", or depth perception. If an eye is misaligned or has poor vision, the depth perception will be reduced.

REFRACTION: Refraction is the process used to measure the "power" or strength of the eye. This determines if your child is nearsighted, farsighted, or has astigmatism. This can even be done with infants and non-verbal patients who are unable to tell us what they see. A light is shined into the eye and moved back and forth. This light bounces back from the eye to the instrument held by the Doctor. The way the light reflects back from the patient's eye tells the "refractive power" of the eye. In order for this measurement to be most accurate, the focusing ability of the eye must be temporarily stopped. This is done with dilating drops, which take 30-40 minutes to work and last 6-8 hours.

FUNDUS EXAMINATION: The Doctor uses a light worn on the head to look into the back of the eye. The retina, optic nerve and blood vessels can be evaluated. Once the exam is complete, glasses may be prescribed or treatment for other disorders may be addressed. Please ask any questions you have at this time.