Putting Healthy Vision in Sight - Critical Steps for Your Program

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Today’s Presentation Goals . . .

To provide easy-to-implement, evidenced-based information to assist HS/EHS Programs in developing a strong vision health system for children. Participants will (1) learn vision screening methods (2) gain access to resources that will improve their vision health programs, and (3) learn how parents want to be engaged in follow-up to eye care.

After this session you will be able to:
1. List 3 special populations of children with diagnosed medical conditions that should bypass vision screening and go directly to eye exam.
2. Describe 2 sets of appropriate optotypes for optotype-based screening and 2 devices for instrument-based screening.
3. Describe 2 free resources that can help educate parents about their children’s vision and eye health and improve follow-up to care.

Madison’s Giraffe

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12 Component Strong Vision Health System of Care to Help Ensure Future “Madisons” Differentiate Giraffe Eyes

12 Components of a Strong Vision Health System of Care

Children's Vision Health: How to Create a Strong Vision Health System of Care for the Youngest Years (ages birth to 5)

1. Vision screenings
2. Parent education
3. Referral to vision specialists
4. Early intervention services
5. Ongoing monitoring and support

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2014 World Forum on Early Care and Education - 81 nations represented

12 Components of a Strong Vision Health System of Care — Evaluation

- Monitoring
- Evaluation
- Reporting
- Feedback

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4 Key Considerations for Creating a Strong Vision Health Program for Children like Madison

1. Implement an evidence-based approach to vision screening.
2. Support families.
3. Ensure effective communication among all stakeholders.
4. Assess your competency - are you making a difference?

Each "key consideration" includes multiple components.

Key Considerations:
1. Implement an evidence-based approach to vision screening

Children Who Should Bypass Vision Screening and Go Directly to Eye Exam - NCCVEH

- Readably observable ocular abnormalities
- Neuro-developmental disorders, such as:
  - Strabismus
  - Ptosis
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Systemic conditions with ocular abnormalities, such as:
  - Hearing impairment
  - Mental such as DS
  - Diabetes
  - Strabismus
  - < 32 completed weeks
  - Amblyopia
  - History of prematurity
  - Parents or siblings with history of:
  - Strabismus
  - Amblyopia
  - History of prematurity
  - Parents who believe their child has vision problem
  - Message to primary care providers:
    - Don't wait and see

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Screen vision with age-appropriate and evidence-based tools and procedures, including optotypes (pictures) and/or instruments.

Include vision screening training for your staff that leads to state and/or national certification in evidence-based screening procedures.

Establish and follow policies for screening or direct referral to an eye care provider for children with special needs.

Example Evaluation Items...

If we use an “eye chart”, it meets national and international design guidelines for standardized eye charts.

If we use instruments, the referral criteria is set according to recommendations from the National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness or our local eye care providers.

We ensure new staff members are formally trained within 3 months of employment through the National Center, a Prevent Blindness affiliate program, or a state-approved training program.

We use appropriate occluders.

We use National Center guidelines for when to bypass vision screening and move directly to eye exam.

"Sailboat" or Allen Pictures

"House, Apple, Umbrella" or Tumbling E

Snellen

Landolt C

Recommended by NCCVEH and/or AAP

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Preferred Optotypes for Ages 3 to 7 Years

- NCCVEH
- AAP
- Recommend LEA SYMBOLS® and HOTV letters as optotypes


Research supports using single, LEA SYMBOLS® optotypes surrounded with crowding bars at 5 feet for children ages 3, 4, and 5 years


NCCVEH Option - LEA SYMBOLS® for children ages 3, 4, and 5 years at 10 feet

Sight Line Kit

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Unacceptable Occluders Ages 3, 4, and 5 years

• Hand
• Tissue
• Paper or plastic cup
• Cover paddle

Why unacceptable?

Children can easily peek

Resources to Ensure Proper Screening for Madison...

Prevent Blindness Certified Screener

Children’s vision screening training and certification


Prevent Blindness Certified Screener

Children’s Vision Health

Less than 1/2 inch


Key Considerations:

2. Components of a Strong Vision Health System to Support and Engage Families
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Support Madison’s Family by...

- Obtaining written approval to share vision screening and eye exam results with care providers (i.e., primary medical home, schools, eye care provider).
- Providing written and verbal information in each family's native language that is easy-to-understand and follow or do.
- Connecting parents with peers who can assist and answer questions.

Example Evaluation Items...

- We provide vision screening referral and follow-up eye care information in the native language of all families served by our program.
- We talk with the child’s eye care provider for clarification of eye exam results and prescribed treatments.
- The follow-up actions for families are clearly described and parents are advised to act within a specified timeframe.

Resources to Support Madison’s Family...

- Financial Assistance Programs
- Parent Education
- VS Referral Documents

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Engage Peer Support Systems

- Parent-to-parent
  - I did this...
  - You can try this...
  - My eye doctor told me this...
- Personal referrals (of doctors, resources)
- Personal advocates (for appointments)
- Provide translations
- Help parents access or get child to an eye appointment
- Peer support in treatment adherence
- Provide educational sessions to other parents and children
- Set goals for children’s health (incl. eye care) for the HS program and evaluate success

Communication is key!

- Use multiple approaches to obtain outcomes for referrals
- Promote engaging the medical home
- Support treatment plans and engage VI specialists if needed
- Develop relationships

Key Considerations:

3. Ensure effective communication among all stakeholders
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Ensure Effective Communication Among Madison’s Stakeholders...

Create a system for following up with parents/caregivers to help ensure the eye exam occurs.

Send a copy of eye exam results to child’s medical home.

Create a process to help ensure that the eye care treatment plan prescribed for a child is followed.

Example Evaluation Items...

We have a system in place to send (mail, fax, e-mail) a copy of eye exam results to children’s primary care providers.

We talk with the child’s eye care provider for clarification of eye exam results and prescribed treatments.

We have a process for alerting a child’s eye care provider if the child does not wear prescribed glasses or a patch.

Resources to Ensure Communication Among Madison’s Stakeholders

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Resources to Ensure Communication Among Vision Health Stakeholders

Tips for Wearing Eye Glasses

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Key Considerations:

4. Assess your competency - are you making a difference?

Ensure Your Vision Health System of Care is Strong Enough to Find — and Help — Children Like Madison . . .

Evaluate the effectiveness of your vision health program annually.

Prioritize 3 needed actions to strengthen your Vision Health System of Care.

Develop an action plan with progress review and completion dates.

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We review our vision health program results annually to identify needs and seek solutions for barriers to follow-up care.

We ensure training certificates are current.

We compare screening results to eye exam outcomes to identify variations or needed revision in screening procedures.

Example Evaluation Items...

Resources to Ensure Competency

5 Tips for Reaching Out to Head Start and Other Early Childhood Programs in Your Community

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1. Be available a minimum of 1 hour a month to answer questions from your local programs.
2. Provide an e-mail address where local program personnel can ask questions and designate someone from your staff to answer those questions in a timely manner.

Consider offering 1 free eye exam a month for parents who cannot afford an eye exam.

Place links to the YOCV and the National Center on your organizational website.

Discuss how programs wish to receive eye exam results and strategies that program personnel can implement to help ensure treatment plans are followed.

Share the 12 Components of a Strong Vision Health System of Care. Ask program personnel if they need assistance with any of the components.

Establish Community Provider Relationships

- Meet area eye care providers and discuss the needs of HS families
- Create a resource listing local providers, hours of operation, insurance accepted, location on bus line, and ages seen (potential project for a parent or college student)
- Invite providers to visit your program and talk with the families/children about vision
- Report your health outcomes and NEEDS

Localize relationships and resources

http://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/publications-and-presentations
Resources to support better eye health
Website for the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health

http://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org

Critical Steps for Your Program

Professional Development

Provider education tools

Parent/family resources

Technical assistance

Communication tools

http://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/year-childrens-vision

Year of Children’s Vision

• Archived vision screening and eye health webinars in Resources
• Free downloadable documents and fact sheets

Questions for the presenters?
Conclusion of today’s presentation

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