

3 Common Early Childhood Vision Disorders

Three common early childhood vision disorders that can lead to permanent vision disorders if not detected and treated early include:

1. Amblyopia

- Also called lazy eye, but defined as poor vision development at the brain level when the brain receives insufficient sensory input from an eye that has a defect in it, which cannot be corrected by spectacles alone
- Described as the most common cause of vision loss in children
- Described as the leading cause of preventable vision loss in children
- If not detected by age 5, amblyopia is often difficult, if not impossible, to reverse

2. Strabismus

- Also called lazy eye, but defined as misaligned or crossed eyes.
- Can lead to amblyopia

3. Abnormal refractive errors

- Also called lazy eye, but defined as:
 - ◆ Myopia or nearsightedness (clear at near)
 - ◆ Hyperopia or farsightedness
 - ◆ Astigmatism
 - ◆ Anisometropia (i.e., one eye can be nearsighted and one can be farsighted)

Hyperopia:
hi-pur-OH-pee-uh



With hyperopia, distant objects are clear; close objects are blurred. This is also called farsighted vision.

Myopia: mi-OH-pee-uh

With myopia, near objects are clear; distant objects are blurred. This is also called nearsighted vision.



Astigmatism:
uh-STIG-muh-tiz-um

A normal cornea is round, like a basketball. With astigmatism, the cornea is misshapen, resembling half a football, causing light rays to strike different parts of the retina. This causes blurred and distorted vision at both near and far distances.

