



## WHAT IS PEDIATRIC EYE CARE?

Vision problems in children affect their ability to learn, read and play, making it essential to address them as soon as possible. Catching sight issues early can be complicated by children being unable to communicate effectively and any fears they may have around going to the doctor. Geneva Eye Clinic's pediatric ophthalmologist and techs specialize in all aspects of pediatric eye care. Our medical team is committed to treating your child with extra attention and compassion, from managing complex medical and surgical problems to routine vision care.



## THE PROCESS

Eye exams for children may take longer than adult exams. After the technician performs the first part of the exam, the doctor may need to see the child before inserting any eye drops. This allows the doctor to check the eye muscles and take any measurements as required.

Next, the child's eyes will be dilated with eye drops. Your child's eyes will remain dilated for 6 to 8 hours, maybe longer, and they will be sensitive to bright light and blurry for near vision. We have disposable sunglasses available to make them more comfortable.

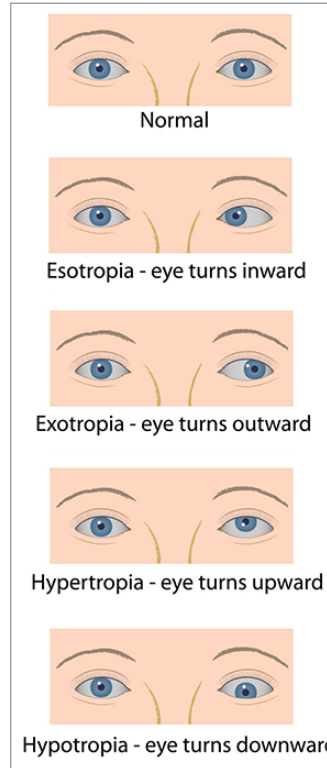
After dilation takes effect (approximately 30 minutes), your child will be brought back to see the doctor again, who will perform the rest of the exam. An exam usually entails using a microscope called a slit lamp to view the front structures of the eyes and bright lights to view the retina and optic nerves. This may be uncomfortable for a child, but it will not harm their eyes. The doctor will discuss the exam findings and any treatment plans if needed with you.

The pediatric eye exam is approximately a two-hour process. Please anticipate your child's visit to require this length of time.

## WHAT ARE SOME COMMON PEDIATRIC EYE CONDITIONS?

### STRABISMUS

#### WHAT IS STRABISMUS?



Strabismus refers to misaligned eyes. If the eyes turn inward (crossed), it is called esotropia. If the eyes turn outward (wall-eyed), it is called exotropia. Sometimes one eye is higher than the other, called hypertropia (for the higher eye) or hypotropia (for the lower eye). Strabismus can be subtle or obvious, intermittent (occurring occasionally), or constant. It can affect one eye only or shift between the eyes.

#### WHAT CAUSES STRABISMUS?

Strabismus usually begins in infancy or childhood. Some toddlers have accommodative esotropia. Their eyes cross because they need glasses for farsightedness. But most cases of strabismus do not have a well-understood cause. It seems to develop because the eye muscles are uncoordinated and do not move the eyes together. Acquired strabismus can occasionally occur because of a problem in the brain, an injury to the eye socket, or thyroid eye disease.

#### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

When young children develop strabismus, they typically have mild symptoms. They may hold their heads to one side if they can use their eyes together in that position. Or, they may close or cover one eye when it deviates, especially at first. On the other hand, adults have more symptoms when they develop strabismus. They have double vision (see a second image) and may lose depth perception. At all ages, strabismus is disturbing. Studies show that school children with significant strabismus have self-image problems.