



# Vision In Preschoolers Study

**(or VIP Study)**

***Did you know that one out of every four children has a vision problem that no one knows about?***

***How could that happen? First of all, children don't know how they should see. Children can't tell us that they don't see things clearly. And, most vision problems don't hurt.***

*It's important to find vision problems when children are young. That's the best way to prevent permanent vision loss. Vision problems can cause headaches, eyestrain, and trouble concentrating on schoolwork. Treatment for vision problems can lead to a better school experience and a brighter future. Right now, few children have eye exams before they start school.*

# Vision In Preschoolers

## What vision problems need to be found?

The VIP Study Group is looking for **amblyopia** (am blee **oh** pee ah), **strabismus** (strah **biz** mus), and **refractive** (ree **frak** tiv) **error**.

- Amblyopia is reduced clearness in vision in one or both eyes. It is sometimes called “lazy eye.”
- Strabismus is a turn in one or both eyes. The eyes don’t look in the same direction at the same time.
- Refractive Error causes blurred vision.

## What is the goal of the VIP Study?

Vision screenings are a good way to find and identify children who have vision problems. Right now, vision screening is done in many different ways. Some tests do a better job than others at telling whether a child needs an eye exam. If a vision-screening test misses finding a vision problem, children who need an eye exam might not get one.

The VIP Study is needed to see which vision-screening test or tests do the best job at finding vision problems in 3- and 4-year old children. The best tests will identify the children that need eye exams.

## What is the difference between a vision screening and an eye exam?

A vision screening is not the same as an eye exam. A **vision screening** is used to **find** possible vision problems that may not be obvious and may need further attention. A vision screening is often done by a nurse or lay person (someone who did not go to school to study vision). An **eye exam** is done by an eye doctor and is used to **diagnose** a vision problem and prescribe or suggest treatment (like glasses).

## Wouldn’t I know if my child had a vision problem?

Not necessarily. Many children have vision problems but do not show any signs or have any symptoms. Remember, many vision problems are not obvious.

# VIP

# Screening Tests

## What screening tests will be used?

Children will be screened with commonly used screening tests. Matching games will be used to see how clearly each child can see. A 3D test will be used to see how well a child uses his or her eyes together as a team. Children only need to view a small picture or light to see if glasses may be needed. **A child does not need to know his or her letters to be screened.**

**Tests that are currently being used in the VIP Study are shown here.**

### Visual Acuity Test

*The child is asked to match or name the shape. This test shows how clearly the child sees with each eye.*



### Eye Alignment Test

*The child is asked to point to a 3D picture that jumps off the page. This test shows if both eyes work together as a team.*

# More **VIP** Screening Tests



## **Refractive Error Tests**

*The child looks into an instrument and views a small picture. The instrument records information about both eyes to see if glasses may be needed.*

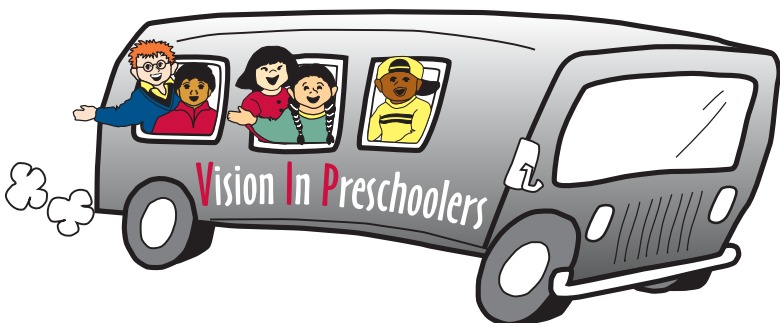
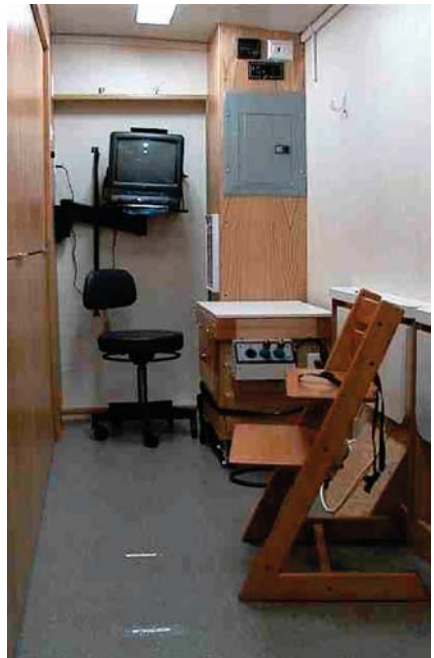


## How can you tell if a screening test works?

Children have their vision screened on one day. They have an eye exam on another day. Results from the screening will be compared to the results from the exam. If the results are the same, a test works. If the results are different, a test is not as good.

## Where will the screenings and exams take place?

Screenings and exams take place in special VIP Study Vans. The VIP Study Vans travel to Head Start schools.

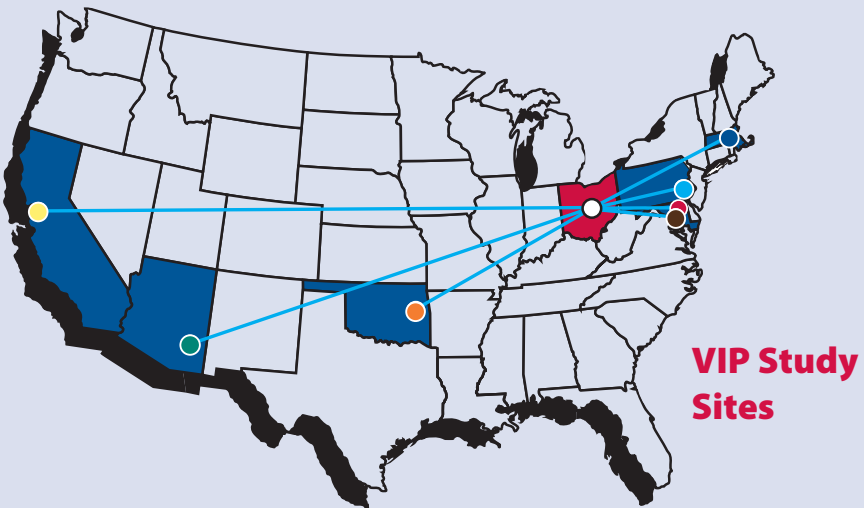


## Who makes up the VIP Study Group?

Eye doctors, scientists, nurses, Head Start parents, etc. make up the VIP Study Group. They all care about the vision of children. They work at many different places across the United States (*see below*).

- New England College of Optometry, Boston, Massachusetts\*
- Northeastern State University, College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma\*
- Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania\*
- The Ohio State University, College of Optometry, Columbus, Ohio\*
- University of California Berkeley, School of Optometry, Berkeley, California\*
- University of Arizona, Department of Ophthalmology, Tucson, Arizona
- University of Pennsylvania, Department of Ophthalmology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- University of Maryland University College, Early Head Start, Adelphi, Maryland
- National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

*\* Screenings and eye exams are taking place at these sites.*



The **VIP Study Group** wants to help children. The VIP Group thinks **vision-screening tests** could be a good way to find children that need eye exams if the most accurate tests are used.

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### For more information about the VIP Study, please contact:

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