



## **NORMAL VISUAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **At birth**

sees only in black, white, and shades of gray, your baby will look at objects close to his/her face-- particularly faces

### **1 month:**

beginning to see colors, follows moving object to midline, looks intently at faces, eye(s) may occasionally drift inward or outward from proper alignment

### **2 months:**

beginning to be interested in complicated patterns but still prefers faces, sharper visual acuity, attends to objects up to 6 feet way, eyes beginning to move better as a team and follow moving objects, shifting gaze

### **3 – 4 months:**

shows greater interest in looking at primary colors, studies fingers and hands, becoming more sensitive to light, eye movement becoming smoother, following activities in their surroundings, both eyes normally look at the same object, may smile when recognizing familiar faces

### **5-6 months:**

eye-hand coordination developed, reaches and grasps successfully, recognizes favorite toys and/or a bottle at a distance, watches toys fall and roll away, able to move eyes more independently rather than head

***For children with normal visual development six months of age is an important milestone to have your child's first eye exam. Even though your baby doesn't know letters on a wall chart, your eye doctor can perform non-verbal testing to assess his visual acuity, detect nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism, and evaluate his eye teaming and alignment.***

***At this exam, your eye care practitioner will also check the health of your baby's eyes and look for anything that might interfere with normal and continuing vision development. For the most thorough eye exam for your 6-month-old, you may want to seek the services of an eye doctor who specializes in children's vision and vision development.***

### **7-10 months:**

notices and touches small bread crumbs or food, recognizes partially hidden objects, recognizes family members by facial features, imitates facial expressions, better at judging distances better, grasps and throws objects more accurately, eyes may be changing color

**11-12 months:**

far and near acuity is good, binocular vision is stronger, depth perception is good, recognizes pictures, plays hide and seek, scribbles spontaneously

**12-18 months:**

matches identical objects, points to pictures in a book, scribbles vertically, horizontally and in circular motions, identifies forms

**18-24 months:**

inspects objects visually, imitates movements of others, increased visual memory, all optical skills smooth, matches color and form

**No-Cost Eye Exams for Infants**

Recognizing the importance of infant vision development to a child's overall development and enjoyment of life, the American Optometric Association established the InfantSEE program in 2005.

Developed in partnership with The Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, InfantSEE is a public health program designed to ensure that eye and vision care become part of routine infant wellness care in the United States.

Under this program, AOA member optometrists offer a comprehensive infant eye assessment within the child's first year of life at no cost. For more information and to find an optometrist who participates in the program, contact the American Optometric Association at (800) 365-2219 or [www.infantsee.org](http://www.infantsee.org)

**RESOURCES:**

All About Vision, Gary Heiting, O.D.  
[www.allaboutvision.org](http://www.allaboutvision.org)

Dr. Lea Hyvarinen, M.D. Pediatric Ophthalmologist,  
[www.drieahyvarinene.com](http://www.drieahyvarinene.com)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Tori Schladen, Director Family Resource Project,  
The Center for the Partially Sighted



**BIRTH TO FIVE VISION NETWORK**  
**[birthtofivevision.org](http://birthtofivevision.org)**