Facts About Vision Loss
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
What is vision loss?
Vision loss means that a person’s eyesight is not
corrected to a “normal” level. Vision loss can vary greatly
among children and can be caused by many things.

What causes loss of vision?
Vision loss can be caused by damage to the eye itself, by
the eye being shaped incorrectly, or even by a problem
in the brain. Babies can be born unable to see, and vision
loss can occur anytime during a person’s life.

When should my child be
checked?
Your child should be checked for vision problems by an
ophthalmologist, optometrist, pediatrician, or other
trained specialist at:
 newborn to 3 months
 6 months to 1 year
 about 3 years
 about 5 years
Having your child’s vision checked is especially
important if someone in your family has had vision
problems.

What are some signs of vision
loss?
A child with vision loss might:

-rimmed,
crusted, or swollen.

What can I do if I think my child
may have vision loss?
Talk with your child’s doctor or nurse. If you or your
doctor think there could be a problem, you can take your
child to see an ophthalmologist, optometrist, or other
specialist, and you can contact your local early
intervention agency (for children under 3) or public
school (for children 3 and older). To find out whom to
speak to in your area, contact the National Information
Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities at
www.nichcy.org/states.htm or call the Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at 1-800-232-
4636.
Treating vision problems early may protect your child’s
sight, and teaching children with severe vision loss how
to function as early as possible can help them reach their
full potential.

1-800-CDC-INFO | www.cdc.gov/ncbddd

Hoja informativa sobre la pérdida de la visión

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
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¿Qué es la pérdida de la visión?
Pérdida de la visión significa que la visión de una persona no
puede corregirse a su nivel normal. La pérdida de la visión
varía considerablemente de niño a niño y sus causas pueden
ser muchas.

¿Qué causa la pérdida de la
visión?
La pérdida de la visión puede resultar por daños al ojo mismo,
porque el ojo tiene una forma incorrecta o incluso por
problemas cerebrales. Algunos bebés nacen sin poder ver,
pero la pérdida de la visión puede ocurrir en cualquier
momento durante el transcurso de la vida de cualquier
persona.

¿Cuándo se le debe hacer un
examen de la visión a mi hijo?
La visión de su hijo debe de ser examinado por un
oftalmólogo, optómetra, pediatra u otro especialista
entrenado en este campo:
 recién nacido a 3 meses
 6 meses a 1 año
 a los 3 años aproximadamente
 a los 5 años aproximadamente
En particular, es muy importante hacerle a su hijo un