



## Vision Alert

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### September 2005

#### **Vision "Screening" by trained technicians still misses 30% of Children's Vision Disorders!**

Results of a federal government study shows that nearly 1/3 of American preschoolers can fall through the cracks of vision screenings even if performed by trained technicians.

According to the National Institute for Health's (NIH) funded study of vision disorders in preschool children ("VIP" Study), using trained screeners such as nurses and teachers along with the best screening tests available still resulted in missing critical children's vision disorders such as amblyopia ("lazy eye"), strabismus (eye turns inward or outward), and refractive errors (nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism) in 30% of cases.

"These results are staggering and deeply concerning" according to Dr. Richard Wallingford, president of the American Optometric Association. Optometry is committed to ensuring that no child is "left behind" due to vision problems.

The results of this NIH study are consistent with prior studies that state that the "Gold Standard" is a comprehensive eye examination performed for children by their eye doctor.

NSVC has long realized the need for comprehensive eye examinations for children. Dr. Darin Strako, director of pediatric eye care at NSVC, recommends that children receive a comprehensive eye examination by age 5 (prior to entering kindergarten), even if a child has no symptoms. Often eye and vision problems can be diagnosed and treated more effectively before any symptoms are experienced.

To schedule a comprehensive eye examination for your child, call our offices and ask for an appointment for a pediatric eye examination with our pediatric eye care specialist.