



# Rhode Island Early Intervention

## A Guide to Your Child's Vision Assessment

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### Why should I get my child's vision tested?

There are many reasons to have your child's eyesight tested. Infants begin learning about themselves and the world around them from the moment they are born. When a child cannot make full use of their sight, parents and caregivers need to help them gather information in other ways. Detecting any degree of vision loss will provide the opportunity for your Early Intervention provider to work with you on targeted strategies to support your child's development.

### When should I get my child's vision tested?

The American Optometric Association (AOA) recommends that children have their eyes examined by an eye doctor at 6 months, 3 years, and before they start Kindergarten. Children's eyes should also be examined any time you have concerns about how your child sees, have a family history of eye disease, or your child has experienced trauma to their eye(s). Other possible concerns not looking at others, or not noticing visual obstacles.

### What is the difference between a Pediatric Optometrist and a Pediatric Ophthalmologist?

#### Optometrist

An optometrist will assess the developmental, behavioral, functional, and environmental aspects of vision. These assessments can help parents learn more about their child's vision, even if their child cannot read an eye chart.

#### Ophthalmologist

An ophthalmologist is a medical doctor who can diagnose, treat, and manage children's eye problems, including physical characteristics of the eye, eye disease, and visual processing disorders.

Ophthalmologists perform eye exams, surgery, and care for eye injuries. They can prescribe medications and dispense corrective lenses.

### **Rhode Island Pediatric Optometrist**

Dr. Greg Waldorf, OD  
Insight - Low Vision Clinic  
43 Jefferson Blvd  
Warwick, RI 02886  
(401) 941-3322

### **Rhode Island Pediatric Ophthalmologists**

Dr. Wendy Chen, MD, PhD  
Dr. Melissa Simon, MD  
Lifespan Physician Group, Ophthalmology  
1 Hoppin St.  
Coro West Suite202  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 444-6551

Dr. John Donahue, MD, PhD  
Rhode Island Eye Institute  
150 East Manning St.  
Providence, RI 02906  
(401) 272-2020

Dr. Tineke Chan, MD  
Dr. Robins Tien, MD  
Dr. Michael Lague, MD  
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus  
Association  
2 Dudley St., Suite 505  
Providence, RI 02905  
(401) 444-7008

### **Connecticut Pediatric Optometrist**

Dr. Brian Mann, OD  
909 Hartford Turnpike  
Waterford, CT 06385  
(860) 442-0380

### **Connecticut Pediatric Ophthalmologist**

Norwich Ophthalmology Group  
179 Flanders Rd., #2  
Niantic, CT 062551  
(860) 691-0253

### **Massachusetts Pediatric Ophthalmologists**

Dr. Anne Fulton, MD  
Dr. Deborah VanderVeen, MD  
Dr. Gina Heidary, MD  
Boston Children's Hospital  
300 Longwood Ave, Boston, MA 02115  
(617) 355-6401  
Appointments:  
[https://www.childrenshospital.org/  
request-an-appointment](https://www.childrenshospital.org/request-an-appointment)

Massachusetts Eye and Ear  
Pediatric Ophthalmology  
243 Charles Street,  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 573-3202

*Check with your health insurance provider prior to making your appointment to review your health benefit coverage. Some insurers may need a referral from your child's pediatrician. Some providers have more than one location, so ask if there is an office that may be more convenient.*

