# **Early Identification of Vision Problems**

Have you heard of a person being described as a “visual learner”? Vision can be an important learning mode for many people, but especially for children and youth who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This article provides some important information about maintaining vision.

According to the American Optometric Association, about 1 in 5 preschoolers have vision problems and by the time they enter school, 25% need corrective lenses. Many states have laws that require comprehensive eye exams for children entering kindergarten or enrolling for the first time in public, private, or parochial elementary schools. Additional vision examinations at various grade levels may be required when deemed necessary by school personnel.

Healthy vision means that the eyes are effectively working together to enhance learning and mobility. The following are some observations that signal vision concerns:

* Eyes are crossed or turning in or out
* Eyes are frequently red, watery, or crusted
* Eyelids droop to cover pupils
* Eyes shake or move constantly
* Unusual shape of pupils
* White or cloudy pupils
* Pupils are red or violet in color
* Tilting or turning head to use one eye
* Objects held unusually close or far when looking at them
* Frequently running into things
* Stands unusually close to the television
* Pain is experienced in bright-light situations

For more information or to find a nearby optometrist for your child, visit the American Optometric Association([www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)).

[Add state deaf-blind project contact information.]

Adapted with permission from a newsletter article called *Healthy Vision and Early Identification of Concerns* by Carla Beck, Project Reach: Illinois Deaf-Blind Services.