

The New Brunswick Association of Optometrists, along with the Government of New Brunswick, encourages a comprehensive eye exam for children before entering kindergarten. A full eye exam is the only way to ensure that your child can see well.

Q. Why is it important that my child have an eye examination before starting school?

A. About 80 per cent of children begin school without a comprehensive eye exam, yet vision problems have been identified as one of the major factors that limit a child's ability to learn.

Q. How many kindergarten children have vision problems?

A. One out of every four children enters school with an uncorrected or undiagnosed eye health or vision problem. This is based on research in New Brunswick and is consistent with other provinces.

Q. What if my child is diagnosed with a vision problem?

A. Your optometrist will recommend the appropriate treatment – for example, glasses, vision therapy or referral to an ophthalmologist.

Q. How do I find an optometrist?

A. If you don't currently have a family optometrist, you can find one in your area by looking on the web site www.nbao.ca.

Q: Are there any government programs that might cover the cost of an eye exam for my child entering kindergarten?

A: Yes. For low-income families without insurance the *Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision* program provides basic vision coverage, such as a yearly exam, lenses and frames. In addition, the province has recently launched **the Four Year Old Vision Benefit**, which is an expansion of the *Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision* program. This benefit is available for parents or guardians of four-year-old children with or without vision insurance.

Q: What does the Four Year Old Vision Benefit cover?

A: The following items will be provided as part of this benefit:

- One major eye exam; and
- If required, one set of corrective glasses. The maximum coverage for the eye exam and corrective glasses will be the same as that provided under the existing *Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision* program.

For more information about coverage and limit on the *Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision* program, please visit www.gnb.ca/clearvision

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call the New Brunswick Association of Optometrists at 506-458-8759 or e-mail nbao@nbao.ca

The Vision Benefit for Four Year Olds

- EXPANSION OF THE HEALTHY SMILES, CLEAR VISION



Free eye exams and corrective glasses are now available to all four-year-olds who are not covered by health insurance programs.



The Government of New Brunswick may subsidize those who have their own insurance plan.



The New Brunswick Association of Optometrists encourages eye exams for all children before starting school.



More than half of children's difficulties with literacy arise from vision problems. Most children under six years of age do not receive professional eye care.

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/4yr_visionbenefit.html

