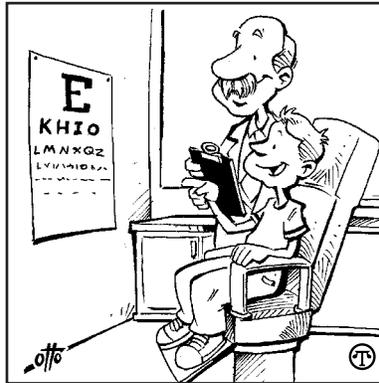


Eye on Health

Protecting Children's Vision

(NAPSA)—Doctors say it is important for children to have regular, comprehensive eye exams by an eye doctor—even if they have already had a school-issued eye screening.



Regular eye exams can help children avoid certain learning problems caused by poor vision.

According to the American Foundation for Visual Awareness, a simple eye screening—while beneficial to the patient—only identifies five percent of vision problems in children. They are not designed to take the place of a thorough eye exam by an eye doctor.

Many vision problems can cause children to have trouble learning. Parents should watch their kids for warning signs:

- Constantly sitting too close to the TV or holding a book too close to their faces.
- Squinting or tilting their heads.
- Frequently losing their place when reading.
- Closing one eye to read, watch TV or see better.
- Frequently rubbing eyes or blinking excessively.

Even if parents don't suspect vision problems, the Vision Council of America says it is important for children to have eye exams.

For more information, visit the consumer section of the Vision Council of America's Web site at www.visionsite.org.