

Frequently Asked Questions for Dr. Miller's Pediatric Ophthalmology Practice

(January 2014)

Can playing video games or watching TV cause my child's eyes to get worse?

There is no published scientific data that shows that use of computer, phone or video screens increases the incidence of focusing or convergence problems or causes damage to the developing visual system.

Why does my child need a complete eye exam by Dr. Miller for a failed vision screening? Or why does my child need to have his/her eyes be dilated?

Children with significant eye disease and vision disorders are often not outwardly apparent. In children who vision screening has indicated a possible abnormality of the eye and/ or vision, a comprehensive ophthalmologic examination is medically necessary. The medical necessity lies in the fact that, after failed vision screening, further evaluation is required to evaluate for amblyopia, strabismus, or other medical conditions. Thus, in children who have failed a vision screening and who are not found to have these issues following a failed vision screening, the examination is still considered medically necessary and not considered routine eye care.

Dr. Miller considers a comprehensive eye examination following failed vision screening in children *medically necessary*.

Will my medical insurance cover my child's eye exam or can I use my vision plan?

Dr. Miller will charge your medical insurance for your child's eye examination. He does not accept vision plans nor does he perform routine eye examinations.

If your child has failed a vision screening, Dr. Miller considers a comprehensive eye examination following a failed vision screening in children medically necessary and not routine eye care.

If your child has the presence of amblyopia, strabismus or another type of childhood eye disease, these are not considered routine eye problems but rather medical eye conditions. A

THE WOODLANDS

1699 RESEARCH FOREST DR, #150
THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS 77380
(281) 363-2155 OFFICE
(832) 280-3655 FAX

TOMBALL

13414 MEDICAL COMPLEX DR., #4
TOMBALL, TEXAS 77375
(281) 351-5468 OFFICE
(281) 351-2421 FAX

LUFKIN

EAST TEXAS EYE ASSOCIATES
1306 W. FRANK
LUFKIN, TEXAS 75904
(936) 634-8381 OFFICE

comprehensive eye examination is medically necessary to evaluate, manage and treat your child's eye condition.

Does Dr. Miller do evaluations for vision therapy or do vision therapy?

Does Dr. Miller evaluate for Irlen Syndrome or color overlays?

Does Dr. Miller evaluate for colored/tinted lenses to help with learning disabilities?

NO.

Scientific evidence does not support the efficacy of these eye exercises, behavioral/perceptual vision therapy, training glasses, or special tinted filters or lenses in improving the long-term educational performance conditions. It is important that any therapy for learning disabilities or other eye conditions be scientifically established to be valid before it can be recommended for treatment. Because vision therapy is not evidence based, it cannot be advocated.

We do not do Vision Therapy in our office nor do we recommend that a child be evaluated for it.

However, Dr. Miller does recommend a complete eye examination by an ophthalmologist to rule out any medical eye conditions.

Does Dr. Miller do eye exams for dyslexia?

Visual problems do not cause dyslexia or learning disabilities. However, Dr. Miller does recommend a complete eye examination to rule out any other medical eye conditions that could be preventing your child from seeing well enough to learn to the best of his or her abilities.

Does Dr. Miller do eye exams for tracking problems?

Does Dr. Miller evaluate for tracking problems that are causing my child to read poorly?

Yes, Dr. Miller does do eye exams for tracking problems. However, tracking or visual problems do not cause dyslexia, learning disabilities or reading problems. Dr. Miller does recommend a complete eye exam by a pediatric ophthalmologist to rule out any other medical eye conditions

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that could be preventing your child from seeing well enough to learn to the best of his or her abilities.

What is the refraction and why was it done?

Childhood eye disease and vision abnormalities require a thorough ophthalmologic evaluation. In addition to a complete examination of the structures of the eyes and assessment of vision, further diagnostic testing is often required. Refraction is an important diagnostic test in the evaluation and treatment of eye disease in children.

Refraction is the determination of the refractive error of the eye. Refractive error can affect the eyes' ability to focus light clearly which causes reduced visual acuity. In children, refractive error problems can cause amblyopia (permanent vision loss) and/or strabismus (misalignment of the eyes). Amblyopia and strabismus can often be treated in childhood with corrective lenses as determined by refraction. If left untreated, however, these conditions can lead to irreversible, life-long vision loss. A refraction is the only way to determine if your child has a refractive error and is a necessary part of the exam with Dr. Miller.

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