

# POINTERS FOR PARENTS

## Change Your Baby's Vision For The Future

(NAPSA)—The best way to ensure your infant's vision for the future is to look into testing his or her eyes.

All infants ages 6-12 months qualify for a comprehensive InfantSEE® assessment, which offers early detection for the risk of potential eye care and vision problems at no cost, regardless of family income.

Novelist Justina Chen Headley encourages parents to include an assessment for their infants among their New Year's resolutions. Amblyopia, reduced vision in one eye, was detected in her own daughter at age 3. Until then, her daughter's vision problem showed no symptoms.

Because such risk factors can be evident in the first year of life, Ms. Headley believes an assessment would have prevented her daughter from having to be patched—the correction method used to help her daughter—and believes her daughter was just lucky that her amblyopia was detected early.

Her daughter's experience inspired Headley to write the book *The Patch*, which tells the story of a young girl with amblyopia who copes with her perceived social stigma associated with wearing a patch.

The young girl did not want to tell her classmates the truth about her amblyopia. Instead, she led them on imaginative adventures to explain her latest fashion choice: "I am Becca the Ballerina Pirate, who dances across the seven seas." Finally, when all her classmates demanded a patch of their own, Becca explained that she has a lazy eye.



**Visiting an optometrist may help change your infant's vision for the future.**

Sadly, one in every 10 children is at risk from undiagnosed eye and vision problems, and public health experts recommend that children be seen by an eye care professional in the first year of life to identify potential problems.

However, only 14 percent of children from infancy to age 6 have had a comprehensive eye assessment from an eye care professional.

The American Optometric Association (AOA) and The Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., partnered to create InfantSEE®, a no-cost public health program developed to provide professional eye care for infants nationwide.

Across the country, more than 7,300 optometrists participate in the program, and during the program's first year, more than 50,000 assessments were performed.

If you are a parent interested in having your baby assessed or you would like more information about InfantSEE®, call toll-free (888) 396-EYES (3937) or visit [www.infantsee.org](http://www.infantsee.org).

Visit your local optometrist and change your infant's vision for the future.