

# CHSA 2011 HEALTH INSTITUTE

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*Focused on vision screening.*

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# Prevent Blindness Northern California

## OVERVIEW

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# PREVENT BLINDNESS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (PBNC) HISTORY

- Founded in 1966
- One of the first preschool vision screening programs in the country
- Affiliated with Prevent Blindness America

# MISSION

***PBNC is devoted to the preservation of sight for the people of Northern California. We accomplish this through direct vision screening services, vision screening training programs, public education, and advocacy.***

***We believe that detection of vision disorders at a treatable stage and raising awareness of eye health and safety are essential to preventing vision loss and blindness.***

# CURRENT COVERAGE



- **PBNC offices:**
  - San Francisco
  - Redding
- Offers training services throughout California

# PBNC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

**PUBLIC  
EDUCATION**

**DIRECT VISION  
SCREENING**

**ADVOCACY**

**TRAINING AND  
CERTIFICATION**

**CHILDREN'S**

**ADULTS'**

**HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS**

**STUDENT HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS**

**PBNC STAFF**

**VOLUNTEER  
STAFF**

**CHDP**

**HEAD START**

# HEAD START- PBNC HISTORY

- Since 1999, PBNC has delivered over 130 classes to more than 1500 Head Start staff on the importance and proper techniques of children's vision screening
- In 2010, PBNC provided professional training to 225 Head Start staff in California

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# THE NEED FOR TRAINING

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# THE FACTS

- Detecting vision problems between the ages of 3-5 years is critical to preventing permanent vision loss
- Head Start procedures require a visual assessment of children within 45 days of enrollment-- 1304.20(b)(1)

# THE FACTS

- Statewide, 37% of children (ages 3-5) who are receiving CHDP services **DO NOT** receive vision assessments<sup>1</sup>
- Younger children are less likely to receive vision screening. Research has shown that 60-70% of 3 and 4-year-olds do not receive visual acuity screening in pediatric offices<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, *Vision Assessments*, July 2007- June 2008

<sup>2</sup> Kemper and Clark, 2006

<sup>3</sup> Marinak and Yount, 1995

# THE FACTS

Of those who do receive vision assessments, many “fall through the cracks” <sup>1,2</sup>

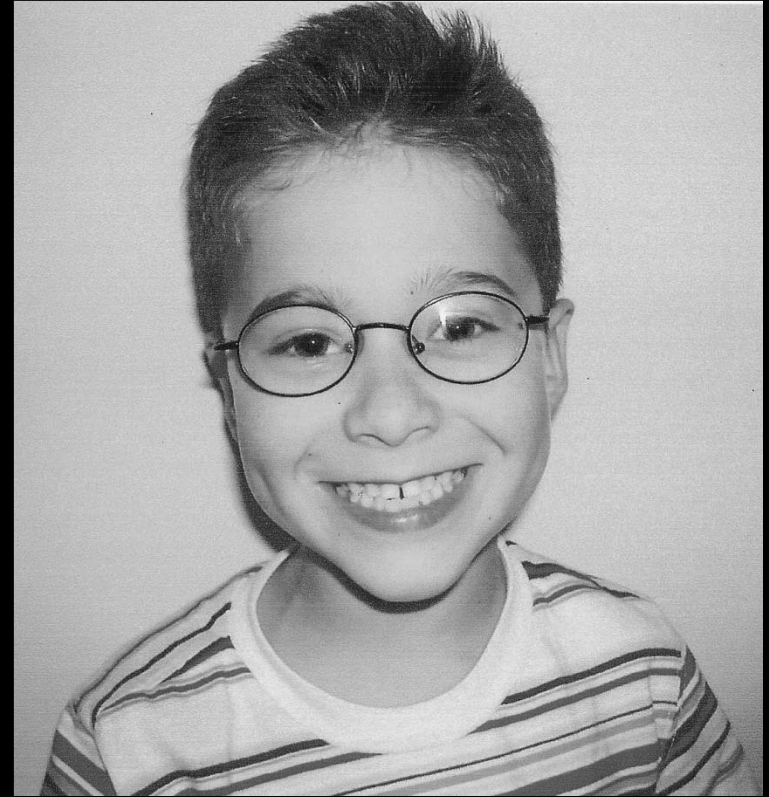
- Not enough time devoted to vision screening
- “Too young to cooperate”
- Ineffective communication of vision assessment results to parents

<sup>1</sup> Kemper and Clark, 2006

<sup>2</sup> Marinak and Yount, 1995

# ETHAN

- Passed vision assessments at his 4 and 5 year well-child visits
- Vision screening at his preschool detected possible problem
- Exam results: Right eye 20/20; left eye 20/300



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# MEETING HEAD START REQUIREMENTS

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# PBNC VISION SCREENING CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

- In order for California's children to receive reliable and valid vision screenings, PBNC offers a comprehensive vision screening certification course
- Components
  - Education on children's vision and the importance of early detection of vision problems
  - Vision screening standards and procedures

# PBNC CERTIFICATION COURSE- PART ONE

- Engaging, informative lecture that covers:
  - Anatomy and physiology of the eye
  - Vision disorders in children (including refractive errors, strabismus, and amblyopia)
  - Vision screening standards and procedures
  - Effective techniques for screening children
  - Updates on evidence-based research on children's vision screening

# PBNC CERTIFICATION COURSE- PART TWO

- Chance to practice hands-on vision screening skills in a supervised, interactive environment:
  - Set up screening area
  - Establish rapport with children
  - Apply screening skills (external inspection, acuity testing, documentation of screening results)



# CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Theory Class (3 hours)
- Supervised screening session
- Written exam
- Certification is valid for 3 years
- Research suggests that periodic training increases the number of 3-year-olds who receive screening and the comfort level of the staff performing the procedure<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hered and Rothstein, 2003

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# VISION RESOURCES

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# RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- **Children:**

- VSP Sight for Students- child is not covered by MediCal or other insurance, child is 18 years or younger and has not graduated from high school, child is a US citizen or has a social security number, child shows financial need (COVERS EXAM AND GLASSES)

- **Children and Adults:**

- Luxottica One Sight- shows financial need, has a current prescription in last 24 months for glasses (COVERS GLASSES ONLY)

# RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- PBNC can offer guidance on how to conduct effective vision screening
  - Correct charts
  - Other screening materials
  - Tips on screening young children
- PBNC offers vision screening training throughout the state of California
- The partnership between PBNC and Head Start helps protect the vision of California children!

*Thank you!*



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