

Better Access to Quality Eye Care

Nebraska's Doctors of Optometry

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Nebraska Optometrists Offer SEE TO LEARN[®] Month

Free vision assessments to any 3-year-old

Governor Proclaims October See To Learn Month in Nebraska

LINCOLN, NE – As part of a statewide focus this Fall, the Nebraska Optometric Association (NOA) in cooperation with the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision today announced a renewed emphasis on the See to Learn program, where participating optometrists offer free vision assessments to any three-year-old.

Parents can find Nebraska Doctors of Optometry who participate in their community by calling 1-800-960-EYES or visiting BetterEyeCareNebraska.com.

According to **Dr. Chad Hudnall**, twenty percent of children entering Kindergarten have an undetected vision problem — and this number increases to more than 30 percent by the time those children graduate from high school.

“Most children don't know they have a problem. Without early detection and treatment, many of these vision problems affect learning, because more than 80 percent of learning is done visually,” Hudnall said.

To help combat this problem, and catch vision disorders early, Governor Pete Ricketts has proclaimed October as SEE TO LEARN[®] Month in Nebraska.

“While Nebraska optometrists are doubling their efforts to help children in October, SEE TO LEARN[®] is a national, year-round program where optometrists provide free vision assessments for three-year-old children to help make sure they have the necessary visual skills to perform to their academic potential. They also work to educate parents and others about the warning signs of vision problems in children of all ages,” Hudnall said.

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The Nebraska Foundations for Childrens Vision, the Nebraska Optometric Association and the Eye Care Council work to address the cost barrier that exists with ALL of health care by offering the See To Learn program in Nebraska. Almost 10,000 three-year-old children across Nebraska have received free vision assessments since 1997.

For more information about SEE TO LEARN[®] or to schedule a free vision assessment for your three-year-old, call the Eye Care Council at 1-800-960-EYES, visit the NFCV website at www.nechildrensvision.org or the Nebraska Optometric Association's website at BetterEyeCareNebraska.com.

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About the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision (NFCV)

The Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision (NFCV) is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to ensure that every child in Nebraska is visually prepared to succeed in school and life. As experts in vision care, NFCV provides outreach and education, encourages comprehensive eye exams by eye care professionals and develops and shares models and best practices related to children's vision.

About the Nebraska Optometric Association (NOA):

The NOA represents over 240 doctors of optometry serving in more than 80 communities throughout the state. Doctors of Optometry (ODs) are the independent primary health care professionals for the eye. Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage disease, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eyes. Association members in Nebraska are also leading providers of pediatric vision care and offer two statewide public service programs to serve children. Learn more about both programs and other valuable eye care information on the Nebraska Optometric Association website at www.BetterEyecareNebraska.com