

Who Are the Eye Care Providers?

Understanding the differences among eye care providers ensures your child receives the care they need. Knowing which specialist to visit can be difficult, which is why **The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine** ([NCBI.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK385157](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK385157)) created a table to help you choose the best option for your child!

For more information on how to find an eye doctor and how to schedule an eye exam from our **Small Steps for Big Vision: An Eye Health Information Tool Kit for Parents and Caregivers** ([NationalCenter.PreventBlindness.org/small-steps-for-big-vision](https://www.nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/small-steps-for-big-vision)) check out the links below:

Find An Eye Doctor For Your Child Or For Yourself

English: <https://preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2A-Finding-an-Eye-Doctor-1.pdf>

Spanish: <https://preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2B-Spanish-Finding-an-Eye-Doctor.pdf>

How To Schedule An Eye Exam

English: <https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/10/4A-How-to-Schedule-an-Eye-Exam.pdf>

Spanish: <https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/10/4B-Spanish-How-to-Schedule-an-Eye-Exam.pdf>

Profession	Definition
Optometrist	A Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) provides primary care of the eye and visual system. A pediatric optometrist receives extra training in the diagnosis and management of eye conditions for children from birth to age 21 years.
Ophthalmologist	An ophthalmologist is a physician who is qualified by medical education, training, and experience to diagnose, treat, and manage all eye and visual system problems. A pediatric ophthalmologist specializes in children's eye problems.
Orthoptist	Accredited professional (C.O.) who works under ophthalmologists or neuro-ophthalmologists to evaluate and treat patients with disorders of the visual system with an emphasis on binocular vision and eye movements.
Optician	A technician who designs, fits, and dispenses corrective lenses for the correction of a person's vision.
Neuro-ophthalmologist	Diagnoses and treats visual problems related to the nervous system to address issues such as optic nerve disorders, visual field loss, and abnormal eye movements.
Low Vision Therapist	Develops and conducts vision functional assessment tests of everyday tasks for those with low vision.