

# VISION SOURCE

## Mandan



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**Q:** When should my child have an eye exam?

**A:** The American Optometric Association (AOA) recommends a child's first eye exam at approximately 6 months of age. There are tests we can do to estimate prescription, evaluate muscle balance, examine eye health, and much more, without ever asking the infant a single question. There is a program called InfantSEE that allows parents to receive a no-cost eye examination for their infant under one year of age. Vision Source Mandan participates in that program, as well as other clinics in the area. If no issues are detected at the first examination, the AOA recommends the child's next exam to be at 3 years of age, followed by 5 years of age, and then every 1 to 2 years after that.

We agree and support the AOA's recommendations on child eye care. There are many visual problems that can be avoided with proper preventative ocular care including "lazy eye", amblyopia, or even life-threatening conditions such as retinoblastoma. Don't wait until your child complains of visual issues. Most children won't complain because they do not know that the way they see isn't normal for everyone. Start regular eye examinations at an early age!

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