

Vision impairment affects a significant proportion of the population. In South Australia, 80% of children with vision impairment are born with it, and 20% are acquired. Vision impairment can affect a child's ability to learn and participate in school activities. It can also affect a child's social and emotional development. Vision impairment can be caused by a variety of factors, including genetic conditions, infections, and trauma. Early diagnosis and intervention are important for children with vision impairment to maximize their potential.

Each year, approximately 100 children are born with vision impairment in South Australia. This is a significant number, and it highlights the need for early diagnosis and intervention. Vision impairment can be a challenging condition for children and their families. It can affect a child's ability to learn and participate in school activities. It can also affect a child's social and emotional development. Vision impairment can be caused by a variety of factors, including genetic conditions, infections, and trauma. Early diagnosis and intervention are important for children with vision impairment to maximize their potential.

## Signs of a vision problem

There are several signs that may indicate a vision problem in children:

- squinting or eye crossing, especially when reading, watching TV, or playing
- holding the head at an angle, or covering one eye
- clumsiness or frequent falls
- excessive tearing or discharge from the eyes
- poor school performance, especially in reading and writing
- frequent headaches or eye pain
- excessive eye rubbing

## Educational implications

Children with vision impairment may experience difficulties in school. They may have trouble seeing the board, reading, or writing. They may also have trouble participating in group activities. It is important for teachers to be aware of these difficulties and to provide appropriate accommodations. This may include providing large print materials, using a screen reader, or providing a scribe. Teachers should also be aware of the child's social and emotional needs and provide support as needed.

