



## Amblyopia

### **What is Amblyopia?**

Amblyopia is reduced vision in one eye that is not corrected by glasses and is not caused by any disease of the eye. It can also be known as a lazy eye. It occurs when the brain fails to process the vision from one eye, and over time favours the other eye.

It may be caused by:

- a squint/strabismus/esotropia/exotropia- see additional leaflet for more information.
- unequal glasses prescription
- conditions which prevent light from entering the eye e.g. cataract (cloudy lens) and ptosis (droopy eyelid)

### **How does this effect the way the child sees?**

Usually one eye has normal vision, so with both eyes open (binocular vision) the child should not have a visual difficulty.

The treatment for amblyopia is usually patching/atropine drops of the stronger eye. When the patch is worn, your child is encouraged to use their weaker eye and this may result in visual problems during the time that the patch is on.

Patching will only work when the child is young enough to be developing vision, usually before 7/8 years of age.

### **What can be done to help?**

- It is very important that the weaker eye is stimulated in order to improve the vision. It is recommended that whilst the patch is worn, your child should do lots of close work e.g. drawing, reading, schoolwork etc. to make the eye work harder.
- The child does not need larger print than normal, as this will stop the vision from improving as quickly.
- Please see the patching/atropine drops leaflet for more advice.

### **How can parents, family, friends, and teachers make a difference?**

- Sit the child facing the teaching activity, or with their good eye facing the activity.
- Please refer to the advice leaflet- monocular vision- right side or left side, depending on which eye is affected by the amblyopia.
- If the child is prescribed glasses ensure he/she wears them all the time.
- Ensure that the child wears their patch/has their atropine drops every day if they are prescribed.
- Please refer to the patching/atropine drops leaflet for more strategies for support.
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Please note the font used in this information leaflet is called Verdana and is used because it is one of the most visually friendly fonts for people with vision difficulties and is also Dyslexia friendly too.

**Further information for support for children and young people with vision loss can be found on the Birmingham Local Offer website:**

**[Sensory Support Vision - Local Offer Birmingham](#)**