

Foster Children are Especially at Risk for Poor Vision Care; Negligent Parents Fail to Promote Good Vision Skills

My daughter is a foster parent and I see firsthand the problems foster children have. Larry Lefors, DO, Zillah, September 11, 2017

Some Examples:

Children of negligent and /or abusive parents often fall through the cracks as parents fail to promote good reading and speech abilities, or the balance and hand-eye coordination that is necessary for successful learning.

Failure to supervise children to prevent their head injuries: Negligent parents may hit their children in the head or fail to prevent children from hitting their own heads on hard objects. Children can sense the tension in a home and may act out by hurting themselves. These injuries are seldom reported and may not be reported to medical providers or to schools.

Negligent parents, educators and medical personnel may ignore a child who is having trouble learning to read or speak, not giving them the help or resources they need to improve their skills, or making appropriate referrals.

Negligent parents may fail to read to a child and fail to provide him or her with appropriate books.

Negligent parents may fail to promote exercise or sports that will develop good balance and good hand-eye coordination and may not recognize that the child has poor vision skills.

A negligent mother may expose the child to chemicals in utero, which can impact development including vision development. Substance abuse in any form affects the development of a child.

Negligent parents fail to report to the schools or medical providers the problems children are having with learning. Small children can hardly be expected to remember the difficulty they had reading or speaking, and may carry these handicaps into adulthood, as the medical community and schools know little about eye coordination issues, and currently do not have the tools or experience to detect such problems. Schools and doctors further do not have accurate records of the patient's early years due to parents' failure to report problems.