
Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by stephh - 2009/05/06 17:58

My family doctor didn't think it was anything serious, but referred us to eye hospital just in case. Saw them today and they have given us the sad news that our 9mo daughter has +6 in both eyes and needs glasses urgently.

I am unconvinced as she seems to have such great vision, picks up Cheerios, grabs toys etc without any hesitation.

However, I appreciate they're the experts.

However, as her squint only happens very occasionally and can happen in either eye, I wonder whether each eye might not eventually come good as they are both still working (rather than a permanent squint in one eye which I understand never gets the chance to mature). I have seen some stuff on the internet to support this theory, but I appreciate it's a bit out of left field.

Any comments would be so helpful. I feel I owe it to her to at least explore the alternatives as once she's committed to wearing glasses presumably that's it, permanent.

Thanks all xx

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by AnnZ - 2009/05/11 12:20

Hi Stephh - your story sounds so much like ours. We were referred to an ophthalmologist by our pediatrician when we brought up our daughter's occasional eyes crossing at 9 months. Our daughter is also farsighted. It was pretty intermittent at 8 and 9 months, almost seemed to go away for a few months, and then got very noticeable and more persistent around 12 months. She's worn glasses since 14 months (she's 2 1/2 now).

The thing about farsightedness in young children is that they can still focus by accomodating - that's why you don't see her struggling to pick up small pieces of food. The problem is that this puts a strain on her eyes and leads to her eyes crossing occasionally. When a young child's eyes cross, it can lead their brains to suppress the vision from one eye leading to amblyopia and vision loss. The great news is that your daughter's eyes have the same prescription, and since the squint is in both eyes, she has a good chance of not developing amblyopia if she wears glasses.

Farsightedness does decrease with age, and there are many stories of young children who have glasses growing out of them as they get older, but it's extremely important that her vision be corrected early on so that it develops correctly.

Best of luck to you! I know how hard it is to deal with such a young child in glasses, but I would advise you to follow the recommendation to get glasses for your daughter.

Ann

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by timlennon - 2009/05/15 08:15

Without wishing to sound unsympathetic to you, what is there to think about? A medical professional has told you she needs glasses urgently.

I suggest you bite the bullet and crack on with it: hopefully she'll be Ok with her specs without too much adaptation, although there seems to be lots of useful forum advice if she find adapting to wearing something is difficult.

Good luck,

Tim.

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by stephh - 2009/05/18 11:18

Hmmm, then again Tim, professionals get it wrong all the time....

You weren't at the consultation and were not therefore party to the general atmosphere of hurry and harassment from the staff. Against that backdrop, and with no opportunity to ask questions during the consultation, I feel I owe it to my daughter to explore the subject more fully, for example amongst others here.

I was hoping for more constructive replies though!

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by AnnZ - 2009/05/18 11:40

Stephh - I think that a second opinion is definitely in order, not because I think they were necessarily wrong, but because you didn't get the service you deserved from that appointment. If your daughter ends up in glasses, you'll be at the eye doctor's relatively often and having someone that you trust and feel comfortable asking questions of is critical.

Again, the glasses may not be permanent, as children will become less farsighted as they get older. While I understand looking for alternatives, if your daughter is farsighted, she really needs glasses now while her vision is developing.

Best of luck
Ann

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by she mama - 2009/05/25 19:46

Stephh

I have come in to this thread rather late but thought I might have something to add. From what I can see, my experience and those of others on this website, you are asking exactly the same questions as all of us have. It is a big shock to find out that your child needs glasses. It came completely out of the blue for us, with no one in our families having any kind of eye problems. My husband wanted a second opinion as she was picking up small things etc. In the end, we knew she had started to cross her eyes, although at first we just thought she was being funny, but we owed it to her to give it a go and see how she went. Immediately you could tell she noticed a difference and I am so glad that we picked it up early. She does not go crosseyed anymore unless she has her glasses off and is trying to focus on something. I also have a friend who as an autistic child and I knew that she would love to know that all her child needed was glasses, compared to the life her child is living. That put it into perspective for me. I would go to a different ophthalmologist, even one that has a lovely caring nurse that you can talk to, like we have. It will make all the difference. Good Luck.

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by timlennon - 2009/06/17 14:54

Steph,

My first answer might not have seemed the most helpful, but I stick by it, and I'll tell you why.

You very wisely sought a professional opinion, and it was offered. The consultation may have been hurried, not handled in a way you appreciated, rude, or a host of other things. However, the question I think you should be asking yourself is: do I trust the person who gave me the opinion? Do I believe that it was a professional opinion, arrived at through his or her experience, knowledge and diagnostic skill?

Because if you trust the person involved to have made a meaningful diagnosis, you should act on it.

It sounds to me that you're generally not keen on her having glasses, and I can understand that basic position. However, wearing glasses isn't for life (her eyes can change, she could get contacts, etc.), and it's not something children care about - there's a story on the front page about how children react to others in spectacles.

Our little girl has luckily adjusted very well to wearing specs (image attached), and I've worn spectacles all my life: really,

it's one of the most minor hindrances you can have, unless you want to be a fighter pilot or possibly an astronaut!

http://babieswithglasses.org/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/z_in_specs.jpg

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by AnnZ - 2009/06/18 11:45

Timlennon, your daughter is so freakin' adorable!

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by timlennon - 2009/06/18 12:09

Well, thank you very much! I forgot to add to my post that I think glasses give very young children just a little bit of extra distinctiveness and character - I haven't seen a single child in the pictures gallery that doesn't look (as a friend described Zoe) "Too cool for school"!

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by AnnZ - 2009/06/18 12:22

I totally agree. And my daughter is named Zoe, too. We should start a club for Zoes that look just too awesome in their glasses.

http://babieswithglasses.org/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/Zoe_at_zoo.jpg

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by BethMabb - 2009/06/19 00:37

I must say I agree with you all. However, be persistent. You know your daughter better than anyone else. I was happy with my ophthalmologist on my first couple visits. She prescribed glasses for my daughter at 4 months for farsightedness and strabismus, hoping the glasses would help with her crossing. At 7 months, she did strabismus surgery. However, at her three month surgery follow-up, her Dr. was on maternity leave, and she saw her assistant. He told me she was fine, refused to recheck her prescription, and preceeded to tell me he thought she might have a condition called Congenital Occular Motor Apraxia (she kept moving her head from side to side, because she couldn't see!). He literally said "I don't know why she can't see distance, she must not have anything interesting to look at". I left in tears. The next week I talked to my pediatrician about my concerns, and she called the eye doctor and requested to see another doctor in the practice immediately. They got me in within 3 weeks (to a doctor that happens to be ranked in the top 10 in the country). It turned out my daughter needed another surgery, and her prescription HAD changed, for the worse. She's doing much better now, and does NOT have COMA.

Getting a second opinion can be costly, and so can getting a pair of glasses that may or may not be necessary. My daughters lenses alone are \$130. Maybe your pediatrician will do the same thing for you. I didn't have any extra insurance costs, and since my doctor was calling, they didn't give me any BS. This is a very critical time for your child's visual development, and it's important to get it taken care of. My advice is to just be persistent. Chances are likely that your daughter does need glasses, but that's okay. Babies in glasses are the cutest.

Good Luck, let us know how it turns out.

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by Hope - 2009/06/22 20:10

Hi,

I am new to this website. My 10 month old daughter got glasses four weeks ago. We noticed one of her eyes turning in the way and also noticed that she did not always follow objects put in front of her. She smiled at voices rather than at faces. Eventually our doctor referred her to an eye specialist and has is very long sighted. She is a +7.5 in one eye and +8.5 in another. Just looking for some support from others is similar situation. Has anyone noticed that poor eyesight affected the baby's other developmental milestones.

Thanks.

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by BethMabb - 2009/06/23 04:23

Hope,

My daughter was 4 months old when she was prescribed glasses. She had a very hard time with eye contact, and seemed, like your daughter, to only smile at voices. She experienced developmental delay in several areas. Although her cognitive skills were above average, her motor skills were several months behind, along with her speech. She has been in the early intervention program since 12 months. Her therapies include physical, occupational, speech, developmental and vision. All of her therapist said that visually impaired babies are at risk for delays because we fall in love with the world through our eyes. I was also told that visually impaired babies can develop autistic tendencies when not worked with properly. She is now doing VERY well (with the help of not only therapy, but 2 surgeries and glasses). She didn't walk until 19 months (with the help of leg braces), but she is definitely making up for all the lost time. There is a wonderful center in St. Louis, where I live, that provides support groups for parents and siblings of blind and visually impaired children. They are also the group that provides vision therapy for my daughter. Maybe there's a group like that near you. Good luck with everything, I know how VERY hard it is to deal with all this.

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Re:Does my 9mo really need glasses if her squint is in both eyes and only occasional?

Posted by Hope - 2009/06/24 18:53

Thank you very much for your e-mail. At least I know that everything will please God improve in time. Unfortunately I do not have any support groups or the excellent therapists you have. I am living in Ireland and we are finding it difficult to get physiotherapy and occupational therapy. We have been told we must wait to see if our baby is priority for these therapies. It is heartbreaking when she can not crawl or roll at 10 months. The good news is that she is making an effort to do these things since she got her glasses so hopefully the next few weeks will make a big difference. Thanks again for your positive response.