
How to prevent toddler from chewing lenses

Posted by SteveYoder - 2010/01/06 21:14

Any tips on how to prevent a toddler from chewing the lenses? It just takes a second for my son to take off his glasses, put them in his mouth, and leave teeth marks on the lenses. He has been wearing glasses for about a year, with varied success, but this is a new behavior. My wife and I try to redirect this behavior with a chew toy, but he obviously can't always have one in his mouth. Someone suggested that perhaps there is something that can be sprayed on the lenses that doesn't taste good. I did find a product called "apple bitter", but it is made for puppies (so they won't chew things) and so I don't know if that would be appropriate!

My son has Downs syndrome, is non-verbal, and was recently adopted from Eastern Europe, so he's not yet ready to listen to much discussion on the matter!:)

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Re:How to prevent toddler from chewing lenses

Posted by AnnZ - 2010/01/09 23:57

I would imagine that the bitter apple wouldn't hurt him, but would probably make it hard to see through the lenses, and that might lead him to take off the glasses even more. Do you think he would tolerate a strap of some sort that made it harder to get his glasses off? That might be something to look in to. Otherwise, it may just be waiting out the phase and just taking his glasses away every time, and trying to make sure he has other things to chew on. Is he scratching the lenses? If so, it might be worth it to pay for the anti-scratch coating that comes with a yearlong warranty. I think Crizal is one option. They'll replace any scratch lenses at no cost for the first year, for any reason (including bite marks).

Good luck! I'd really like to know how things go. Do keep us updated.

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Re:How to prevent toddler from chewing lenses

Posted by SteveYoder - 2010/01/10 05:56

Thanks for the good advice. Unfortunately, we have been using a strap and it doesn't prevent the chewing (it may be slowing him down a bit, but the damage is still being done to the lenses). So, I think we will look into the Crizal-type option. That looks like it may be our answer. It may take a while for us to get this going, but I'll try to let you know what the outcome is. Thanks again!

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