**Physical Appearance**

**Note: Before 4 months**, most babies' eyes occasionally look misaligned (strabismus). However, after 4 months, inward crossing or outward drifting that occurs regularly is usually abnormal.

* Red, inflamed, itchy and/or watery eyes.
* Pupils look different.
* Lids look puffy or swollen.
* Lots of eye rubbing.
* They eyes may wobble slightly or one or both eyes drift intermittently.
* Eye or eyes looks inwards or outwards.
* In a photo one or both pupils have white flash in them.
* Eye or eyes look cloudy.
* Excessive blinking.
* White or greyish colour in pupil.
* Dropping eyelids.

**Babies**

* Looks by holding the head at an unusual angle.
* Bright light causes them to squint, rub their eyes or cry.
* Does not make eye contact e.g .when feeding.
* Does not return smiles.
* Does not track people across a room.
* Does not track toys if held within 1 metre and moved around.
* Startled when you touch them or approach them.
* Does not reach and grab things/toys. Very passive.
* When reaches and grabs, they often miss or sweep their hands round to find something.
* Bump into things when crawling or tendency to bottom shuffle (leave hand free).

**Toddler and Young Children**

* Walking into things or bumps into objects or door frames on one particular side or both.
* Does not see objects or people until the last minute.
* Runs around more apprehensively and/or avoids crowds.
* Tendency to play in the same space or with the same toys e.g. sit in toy car outside rather than run around.
* Has problems on unfamiliar steps or can raise foot too high or low for the step/kerb height etc.
* Can be apprehensive on ramps.
* Raise their foot higher than expected over changes in floor surfaces e.g. rug on floor.
* Poor hand eye co-ordination e.g. catching balls, throwing, building towers ..
* Unsteady on their feet and poor balance.
* Brings things e.g. books close up to their faces or eyes to view.
* Sits close to things they want to see, e.g. TV or board.
* More clumsy in lower or dim light.
* Complain/cry that the light is too bright or more clumsy in bright light.
* Squinting a lot or holds a hand over cover one eye to look.
* Avoids looking at books and takes no interest.
* Holds toys when other around and does not share e.g. if toy goes too far away from them they lose track of it so can appear not to share.
* Poor directional skills e.g. push a car or ball to someone or somewhere.
* Poor accurate reaching and may use fingers to find holes or small pieces instead of eyes.
* May struggle to see things which are of poor contrast to their background e.g. yellow banana or a yellow plate.
* Reluctance to read, write, colour or poor pen skills.
* Restless and find it hard to settle at an activity. Can even appear as though ADHD.
* Frustration and tantrums when undertaking tasks which require visual concentration or visual skills.
* Appears to tire more easily (children with a visual impairment have to work so much harder to access their environment and play etc)

**NOTE: These signs may also be attributable to other factors other than a visual impairment. A child usually presents with more than one if they have a visual issue but in a few cases may not. A referral can be made to the Vision and Hearing Team if you think a child MAY have visual difficulties by contacting:**

**The Vision and Hearing Team** **SensoryImpairmentService@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**

**or Marie Lloyd (Vision and Hearing Team Leader/Specialist Teacher VI)**

**marie.lloyd@portsmouthcc.gov.uk** **mobile: 07734282415**