



World Sight Day 2007

KEY MESSAGES

- ❖ Blindness and visual impairment affects children both directly and indirectly. Visual impairment in a child limits her access to educational and self-development opportunities. Vision loss in a family member can place a child in the position of carer.
- ❖ **Almost 50 percent of the world's 1.4 million blind children are needlessly blind.**
- ❖ Keep watch on your child's sight—with early screening, vitamin-A rich foods, eye hygiene and safety.
- ❖ Prenatal and antenatal care can avoid blindness that results from malnutrition, Vitamin A deficiency, and to some extent, retinopathy of prematurity.
- ❖ **Setting the child at the centre of blindness prevention efforts ensures a brighter future for all.**
- ❖ Glaucoma and cataract are not only adult problems—juvenile cataract and developmental glaucoma are responsible for a significant amount of childhood blindness in many populations.
- ❖ **Comprehensive care means timely care. Early intervention is key to avoiding many blinding conditions in children.**
- ❖ A pair of spectacles could bring the world into focus for your child! Refractive error is the greatest cause of avoidable visual impairment among children!
- ❖ VISION 2020 programmes address blindness in children as a major public health priority.
- ❖ **Vision care for the caregiver is care for the child.**