



Pediatric
Eye Specialists

What is an Orthoptist?

An orthoptist is a board-certified specialist within the field of ophthalmology who examines, diagnoses and treats a variety of visual disorders in children and adults ranging from blurred vision to eye alignment issues. While not physicians, Certified Orthoptists are trained at two-year medical fellowship programs alongside general ophthalmology residents and fellows who are specializing in pediatric ophthalmology. They are extensively trained in neurology, ophthalmology, pharmacology, physiology, optical physics and the principles of treatment and surgery for ocular disorders.

Pediatric and neuro-ophthalmologists (ophthalmologists who treat eye disorders related to the brain) have relied upon orthoptists for over 50 years to manage non-surgical eye conditions and confer on surgical approaches. Orthoptists also perform the measurements by which surgeons determine which procedure to perform to correct a given patient's misaligned eyes.

Why Does My Child Need to See an Orthoptist?

Orthoptists are an extension of your physician's care. They perform thorough exams and are experienced at directing the care of certain types of patients. Your child has a condition which could greatly benefit from the care of an orthoptist. Your orthoptist communicates closely with your physician regarding the care of your child. Your physician will review every exam and detail of your child's condition and treatment, even though you may not see him personally the day you visit the orthoptist. Orthoptic appointments allow extra time for questions to ensure you understand your child's condition and the course of treatment. If you have any questions you would specifically like to ask your doctor the day you visit the orthoptist, you are more than welcome to request time with him following the orthoptic appointment.



Who is the Orthoptist for Pediatric Eye Specialists?

Karl Henson became a Certified Orthoptist in 2000 following completion of his orthoptic fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine. He has been involved in research, published work and has been asked to speak before the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is soon to be named a member of the *American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus* and the *American Academy of Pediatrics*. As a child, Karl personally experienced strabismus and eye muscle surgery and finds that he provides a unique perspective in the care of children with similar challenges. Karl and his wife, Mary, live in Fort Worth with their son, Connor. He is active in his church and pursues a variety of interests including aviation, playing guitar, and SCUBA diving.