



TABLE 13.2 Common Visual Impairments of School-Age Children

| Condition | Cause | Characteristics |
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| Congenital cataracts | Congenital anomaly, infection, severe malnutrition, systemic disease, or trauma | Blurred vision, nystagmus |
| Congenital glaucoma | Increased pressure of the eye | Excessive tearing, cloudy lens, pain, restricted visual fields |
| Eye injury | Trauma | Poor visual acuity or blindness resulting from injury |
| Myopia | Elongation of the eye | Extreme nearsightedness, decreased visual acuity |
| Ocular albinism | Total or partial absence of pigment, hereditary condition | Nystagmus, light sensitivity, decreased visual acuity |
| Optic atrophy | Degeneration of the optic nerve, may be congenital or hereditary | Loss of central vision, color vision, and reduced visual acuity |
| Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) | Prematurity and low birth weight | Loss of peripheral vision; total blindness may occur |
| Coloboma | Congenital genetic anomaly | Hole in one of the structures of the eye such as the iris, retina, choroid, or optic disc |
| Cortical visual impairment (CVI) | Congenital anomaly | Lesion to the cortex of the brain that is related to vision, structure of the eye is not impaired |

SOURCE: Adapted from National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY). *Visual Impairment, Including Blindness*. (Fact Sheet 13). Available at <http://nichcy.org/disability/specific/visualimpairment>