

# Eye See Eye Learn Optometric Clinic

*Supporting Healthy Active Schools*

## *What happens when a young learner has trouble seeing words and focusing?*

More than 80% of learning is dependent upon vision, yet as many as one in four children have a vision problem significant enough to impair the ability to learn. These vision problems are linked to developmental difficulties, learning delays, reduced self-esteem and health problems like chronic headaches, nausea and dizziness.

Many children in our community have visual problems that have gone undetected for years due to barriers such as a lack of transportation, differences in language or culture and family difficulties that keep them from accessing eye care. According to research, the children most affected by undetected visual problems are those living in families below the poverty line.

Considering the significant impact that vision has on a child's academic success, early eye care is critical. Many parents assume their child will tell them if they can't see well, but unfortunately children don't know what "normal" is supposed to look like. Most often visual problems are not identified until teachers notice students struggling in the classroom. For this reason, and because schools have consistent access to youth, locating an eye clinic directly inside a school is an ideal way to ensure proactive and preventive care.



## EYE SEE EYE LEARN OPTOMETRIC CLINIC

In 2016 the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation and the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists joined forces to open the Eye See Eye Learn Optometric Clinic. Located at Confederation Park Community School, the clinic is ideally located to serve a large population of vulnerable students who are most likely to have limited access to vision care. Students from six additional community schools are transported directly to the clinic by their school community coordinators.

Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation connects families, schools, and communities together to meet the shared goal of enhancing education for Saskatoon Public Schools students.

Visit [www.spsfoundation.ca](http://www.spsfoundation.ca) to donate

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The clinic currently operates one day every two weeks during the school year. During its first year of operation, 169 students received an eye examination, with approximately 1/3 of the students tested receiving glasses as a result of the visit.

The construction and equipment costs to establish the Eye See Eye Learn Clinic were covered by the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation and Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists, with fundraising currently underway to recoup the costs. Ongoing operating costs for the clinic are covered by provincial and federal health benefit programs. Frames and lenses for children without extended health coverage have been generously donated by private donors and service clubs.

Visual problems create barriers to students' achievement and impacts their long term health, school performance and social development.

Vision disorders are the fourth most common disability in children. 1 in 6 children will have some form of vision problem.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR SUPPORT

*The Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation is honoured to invite our community partners to make a one-time investment of \$30,000 to become the major sponsor for the Eye See Eye Learn Optometric Clinic.*

*We value our partners and make it a priority to acknowledge and celebrate their contributions. We will work closely with a sponsor to construct a recognition plan which meets their needs. Recognition opportunities for a \$30,000 contribution include:*

- Naming opportunity for the Eye See Eye Learn Centre
- A special event at Confederation Park School open to media and the community
- Signage inside the school and the Saskatoon Board of Education office
- Recognition through online and print advertising
- Communications directly to Saskatoon Public Schools students and families

**For more information or to discuss a partnership, please contact Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation by email at [info@spsfoundation.ca](mailto:info@spsfoundation.ca) or by calling 306.683.8550**

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