**"Why Vision Matters for Children with Special Needs"**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time**

Did you know that children withautism spectrum disorder, neurodevelopmental conditions (such as ADHD, Down syndrome, and cognitive impairment), and systemic conditions (such as diabetes) are at higher risk of having a vision disorder? This webinar is the first in a series brought to you by the [National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health](https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/) at [Prevent Blindness](https://preventblindness.org/). We will Explore the important role of those working in early childhood education and care, medical care, and school nursing in ensuring the early identification and treatment of vision disorders and supporting the vision and overall health of children with special learning or health needs.

**Webinar Topics:**

* The connection of vision and neurodevelopmental disorders
* Best practices for school nurses and early childhood education and care personnel for addressing vision as a part of the IEP evaluation process (early detection, referring for eye care, coordination with eye care and primary care providers and developing the IEP)
* The role of primary care providers in offering guidance about vision to families with a child with a diagnosis of autism, neurodevelopmental, or other systemic conditions, and in screening and follow-up with families

**Presenters**

* Rachel A. “Stacey” Coulter, OD, MS, FAAO, FCOVID

Diplomate, Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry and

Professor, Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

* Alex R. Kemper, MD, MPH, MS

Division Chief of Primary Care Pediatrics at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

* Venus Parker, RN, BSN

Health Services Facilitator, Exceptional Children’s Services, NOLA Public Schools

**Target Audience**

Individuals who work with children ages 3 through elementary school

* Child Care Health Consultants
* Early Childhood Education and Care Professionals
* Head Start Health Managers and staff
* Home visitors
* Medical Care Providers
* School Nurses
* Special Education staff

Register at: <https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i4ltO8H8Rm6Zt6MfsHot5A>. F*or more information, please contact* *dfishman@preventblindness.org*

**Certificates of Attendance will be available**