3 Common Early Childhood Vision Disorders

Three common early childhood vision disorders that can lead to permanent vision disorders if not detected and treated early include:

1. Amblyopia
   - Also called lazy eye, but defined as poor vision development at the brain level when the brain receives insufficient sensory input from an eye that has a defect in it, which cannot be corrected by spectacles alone
   - Described as the most common cause of vision loss in children
   - Described as the leading cause of preventable vision loss in children
   - If not detected by age 5, amblyopia is often difficult, if not impossible, to reverse

2. Strabismus
   - Also called lazy eye, but defined as misaligned or crossed eyes.
   - Can lead to amblyopia

3. Abnormal refractive errors
   - Also called lazy eye, but defined as:
     - Myopia or nearsightedness (clear at near)
     - Hyperopia or farsightedness
     - Astigmatism
     - Anisometropia (i.e., one eye can be nearsighted and one can be farsighted)

**Hyperopia:** hi-pur-OH-pee-uh
With hyperopia, distant objects are clear; close objects are blurred. This is also called farsighted vision.

**Myopia:** mi-OH-pee-uh
With myopia, near objects are clear; distant objects are blurred. This is also called nearsighted vision.

**Astigmatism:** uh-STIG-muh-tiz-um
A normal cornea is round, like a basketball. With astigmatism, the cornea is misshapen, resembling half a football, causing light rays to strike different parts of the retina. This causes blurred and distorted vision at both near and far distances.