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Dr. Paul V. Hamel & Associates

PEARLE VISION

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Spring 2011

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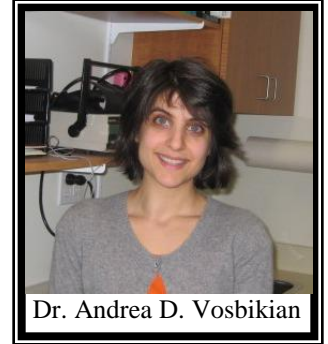
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Dr. Paul V. Hamel & Associates



Dr. Andrea D. Vosbikian

Dr. Andrea D. Vosbikian, REVERE office

Dr. Vosbikian, provides general family eye care; comprehensive eye exams and contact lens fittings, as well as urgent care needs of red eyes, dry eyes, and blurry vision.

Dr. Vosbikian believes in having a well-rounded knowledge base in order to best serve her patients. Having worked with a Pediatric specialist, she works well with children and enjoys treating their visual needs. Alternately, Dr Vosbikian gained valuable experience while working at a Veterans Affairs hospital where she was responsible for effectively managing ocular disease. For her patient's everyday needs, Dr Vosbikian has extensive experience in the optical field and knows how to guide her patients in finding the best optical lenses for their needs. Dr Vosbikian, a member of the American Optometric Association and the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists, is dedicated to staying active and aware to the issues that affect her patients. She looks forward to meeting you and taking care of your visual and ocular health needs.

If it has been over a year since your last exam, please be sure to contact our office at **(781) 289-5900** to schedule your appointment.

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Why your child needs an eye exam

By: Dr. Andrea D. Vosbikian

It was early fall and the office was busy with kids, when the telephone call came. It was a mother looking for an eye doctor to help her 9 year old son, Joey. She was worried and scared because he realized that morning that he could not see out of one eye. The doctor told them to come in immediately.

Upon arrival, Joey was seated in an exam room and given a thorough evaluation. He was healthy, and so were his eyes, so why was his vision in one eye so drastically reduced? And could it be fixed?

Joey had refractive amblyopia, a condition when a person relies on one eye over the other because one is stronger than the other. It shows little to no signs and is present since infancy. Joey had never noticed the amblyopia before because one eye saw perfectly while the other did not. School screenings missed it as well as the pediatricians.

Amblyopia, like many visual problems in children, need to be addressed before they begin school in order to have the greatest chance of improvement. Often times there are no signs while other times there are. If Joey had seen the eye doctor four years ago, the amblyopia would have been caught and his vision would have improved dramatically with treatment. At 9 years old, his improvement was slim.

Like all kids, Joey needed an eye exam at an early age. Here are some tips to help you understand your child's visual needs.

- EVERY child should have their eyes examined before they start school even if you have no concern about their vision.
- If you or your spouse wears glasses, your child has a greater chance of needing them, too
- Signs that your child needs an eye exam include:
 - Closing or covering one eye
 - Avoidance of near tasks
 - Rubbing eyes excessively
 - Tilting the head or turning the face habitually
 - Sitting too close to the TV or holding books too close while reading
 - Complaints of headaches, especially after reading
 - Squinting
 - Red or crusty eyes
 - Using their finger to keep their place while reading
- School vision screenings are mandatory in Massachusetts and can pick up on many vision problems, but problems can still go undiagnosed.

Remember, not every visual problem shows signs that an eye exam is needed. Have your child be seen by an eye doctor before they begin school and yearly thereafter.



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**Offer Ends
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