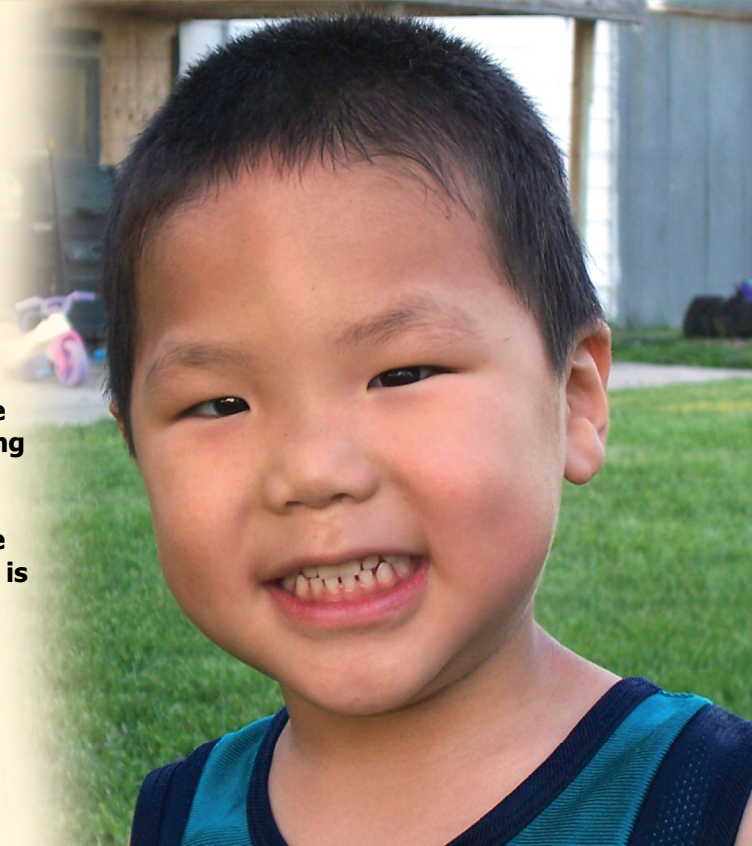


Missing Eye

FACTS:

- Children may be born with one under-developed eye or absent eye. In rare cases a baby may be born missing both eyes.
- It is important to have the child's vision assessed early (and every year) to ensure they have good vision in the one remaining eye.
- This condition occurs when the eye tissue does not form correctly, or the eye tissue is damaged during early pregnancy.
- It may occur as a single birth defect or with other birth defects.
- The child is permanently blind in one or both eyes.
- Children with vision in just one eye can lead active and normal lives.
- These children usually have normal intelligence.

A young boy with short black hair is smiling broadly. He has a missing eye on the right side of his face. He is wearing a blue and black sleeveless shirt. The background shows a grassy area and a building.

Children with missing eyes can lead normal lives and have a normal appearance with prosthetic eyes.



Missing Eye

TREATMENT:

- The child may be fitted with an artificial eye, called a prosthetic, to allow a normal appearance and growth of the face. This typically does not require any surgery.
- It is important to have the child's vision in their normal eye checked and corrected with glasses if needed.
- The child should wear glasses (for eye protection) at all times to protect the one eye with vision to protect the remaining eye's vision.

Glasses can help protect a child's good eye.



HELPFUL HINTS:

- The child should be approached from the "sighted" eye side.
- Provide colorful and textured toys and blankets to stimulate brain development.
- It is important for children with poor vision to be able to touch objects and to also be touched frequently by the people and children around them.
- The child should be encouraged to use stairs, climb and be active to help develop good depth perception.