UC Irvine’s Gavin Herbert Eye Institute wants to ensure that every child has the opportunity for optimal vision and the ability to arrive at school developmentally equipped to learn. That’s why they’ve teamed with the Children’s and Families Commission of Orange County (CFCOC) and First Five California to facilitate the early detection of perceptual problems that will interfere with learning and lead to the prompt evaluation, treatment, education and follow-up prior to visual maturity.

Today, more than 12.1 million school-age children have some form of vision problem, yet only one in three children in America have received eye care services before the age of six. And, the most prevalent and significant vision disorders of preschool children, including amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (crossed eyes) and significant refractive error, can be identified and addressed early if children are screened for possible problems and receive adequate follow-up vision care.

WHO WE TREAT
UC Irvine’s Gavin Herbert Eye Institute children’s vision program services all 3-5 year old children, regardless of residency status, income level or special needs. The program has a three phase approach:

**Phase 1:** A comprehensive vision plan that begins with screening for vision problems in the pre-school, community clinic or home health agency. Bilingual reports will be generated to assist in parent education.

**Phase 2:** If a child is found to have refractive errors likely to have an impact on perception and learning, Phase 2 will address those needs, including secondary eye exams and eye glass correction.

**Phase 3:** For those discovered to have eye disease beyond refractive error, patients will be referred for tertiary care to UC Irvine’s Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, CHOC and the Southern California College of Optometry.

FAST FACTS:
- There are approximately 231,218 children in Orange County under age 6, and approximately 20 percent to 30 percent of preschool children have vision problems.
- Any refractive misalignment of the eyes interfering with the normal visual development not corrected by age 6, becomes extremely difficult to treat thereafter.
- The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute has a Vision Institute for Special Needs Children to assist in the eye care needs of this group.

About UC Irvine’s Gavin Herbert Eye Institute
The faculty of internationally recognized physicians, surgeons and scientists at the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute and the UC Irvine Health School of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology provide highly specialized training to future ophthalmologists, access to leading-edge clinical trials, and sight-saving treatments and therapies for virtually any eye disorder. The eye institute’s mission is to develop educational programs, technologies and clinical solutions that enhance visual health and performance for people in Orange County, the nation and the world through cooperation with medical professionals, industry and the community.

Contact the UCI GHEI at www.ghei.uci.edu/faculty.asp

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