

Ambyopia / Squint / Lazy Eye / Patching

What does this mean?

A squint is a deviation of one eye in any direction. It can be convergent, divergent, vertical or a combination. Some squints are constant others are intermittent. 5% of people in Britain have a 'lazy eye'.

An intermittent squint will occur in certain situations for example:

Only without glasses

Only at a certain distance (e.g. for near)

Only in a certain direction (e.g. looking up to the left)

Only at certain times (e.g. when the child is tired)

The commonest cause of a squint in babies and children is that they have a refractive error in one eye. Patching the good eye can help to make the 'lazy eye' work, but many will continue to have poor vision in one eye.

Implications for learning

- **Pupils with a mild vision impairment will need to sit within 2 metres of distant information.**
- **They may need some enlargement or increased spacing of written material.**
- **May not have vision in both eyes, one will be weaker than the other so need to place with the strongest eye facing the board**
- **Written material needs to be of good quality and contrast.**
- **They may find it difficult to find familiar people in a crowd.**
- **In addition Pupils with a moderate vision impairment may need individual access to distant information**

Other resources

W: nib.org.uk/eye-health/eye-conditions/squint-childhood

W: berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk