

## A Head Start for School



Each August, as a new school year begins, Vision Is Priceless Council is a buzz with activity. Our vision screeners visit all of the Federal Head Start Programs for 3 – 5 year olds in the First Coast and are committed to provide free vision screening for them within the first 45 days of school. Over 80% of what children learn is visual, from shapes, to colors, numbers, letters, and more. Identifying vision problems as early as possible is important so that problems can be addressed quickly so they do not impact the children's education.

These children, whose families are struggling financially, already have to overcome many obstacles to be successful in school. As they begin their education, and start to learn their alphabet and read, we want to make sure that a vision problem is not another obstacle hindering their success. Each child receives screening for acuity, amblyopia, and strabismus, the most prevalent vision impairments and eye diseases found in preschoolers. If a problem is identified their teacher and guardian are contacted. VIP also offers assistance for those families who qualify financially through our Cared Vision Program to provide the child with an exam and glasses etc.

Ensuring each child can see their new school books and the board at the beginning of their school career is essential to help them be successful. From Orange Park to Fernandina, VIP brings our services to these young students to help each child in the First Coast, keeping their eyes healthy!