

Help! Child Hates Eyepatch!

Submitted by Sarah Fitz-Claridge on 16 June, 2005 - 13:07

Posted by [Sarah Fitz-Claridge \(http://www.fitz-claridge.com/\)](http://www.fitz-claridge.com/) and [David Deutsch \(http://www.qubit.org/people/david/\)](http://www.qubit.org/people/david/) on the [TCS List](#) on Sun, 5 Aug., 2001

 Taking Children Seriously

1. How the problem arose: a TCS analysis

Posted by David Deutsch on the [TCS List](#) on Sun, 5

Aug., 2001 at 17:14:29 +0100

A TCS poster wrote:

Can someone give their thoughts on how to deal with a situation please? A child under 10yrs has been asked by medical workers to wear an eyepatch to make the brain use a lazy-eye. the medical opinion is that if the good eye is not patched for 1 hour a day then the lazy – eye will revert to having blurred vision. There is also medical opinion that the lazy eye can become fixed as blurred if the intervention is not carried out before the age of 10 yrs. The child understands the position but finds wearing the patch annoying.

Mother doesn't want to keep reminding the child but also is concerned that the child's sight may regress and be unable to improve in the future. The child wants to be able to see but doesn't want to wear the patch. At the moment mother and child agreed to not keep 'going on about it' but child keeps forgetting to wear the patch and when the day ends realises that it has not been worn. Mother feels stuck.

Mother has also read accounts on a lazyeye support email group of adults who were not forced to wear the patch when they were children and now feel resentful and annoyed at their parents for not insisting that they wear the patch. Mother read the emails to the child but feels that child felt that she was being coerced and mother feels that she was doing this also, mother felt that by hearing about the accounts of older people who have gone through the situation might have helped.

Mother really can't see how child can be happy wearing the eyepatch. Mother also can't see how she can help the child to wear the patch now for hopeful results in the future. Mother feels she is coercing the child as she knows that the child doesn't want to wear it. Mother feels that it is hard for child to plan for the future and hopes that she can help the child consider hir eyesight for the future.

Is there a way that mother can feel she has been TCS and helped child to have good vision in the future?

“The child understands the situation”. But “Mother feels that it's hard for the child to plan for the future.” This ‘planning for the future’ that the child is supposed to do involves biting the bullet and accepting being unhappy, right? That's what

a more mature human being, one who *did* have this planning-for-the-future ability, would do. So, until he becomes fully human by developing a mature ability to make *himself* unhappy, what choice is there but to do it for him?

To me, the pivotal statement in this story is “Mother really can't see how child can be happy wearing the eyepatch”. If she can't see it, it shouldn't be all that surprising if he doesn't either. In reality, there are countless ways in which covering one eye for an hour a day in order to improve one's vision can be a perfectly acceptable thing, or even something that he looks forward to. The difference, and the distance, between reality and Mother's conception of it, is what is making this situation unpleasant.

Judging by the story, reading him those e-mails seems to have been a step in exactly the wrong direction. Those sad, reptilian people who wish their parents had forced them to wear the patch have, by definition, ceased to identify with their former selves. Their integrity has been fractured at some time between then and now. To ask the child to identify with those people is to ask him to fracture his own integrity right now: almost to deny his own existence. Why should he spoil his own life, now, in order to improve the vision of some future stranger who, by hypothesis, is as different from him, and cares as little about him, as those strangers do? He is a person, not a natural resource.

In subsequent messages a different, and incomparably worse, situation was portrayed.

*To begin with the eye was covered with a type of sticking plaster for every waking hour. Child complied after the first day of crying.
Over the last year Child has cut down gradually from wearing the patch for all waking hours to just an hour a day or the equivalent.*

This child was given no choice whatever. The child refused the patch, but was forced to wear it anyway. The patch therefore became an instrument of torture. The child cried, but nevertheless, the patch stayed on. All day. By the next day, the crying had stopped but the patch was still on. It stayed on for months, and the child is still not reconciled to it; the issue is a running sore.

The objective in this case should be the same as in the case above, and the same as what it should have been from the beginning: to help the child to solve the problem facing him – where ‘solve’ has the attribute that the child is *not* in distress or chronic conflict while he is doing whatever he has decided to do. This would probably have involved finding ways for the child to enjoy either wearing the patch or one of the other available forms of treatment.

What to do now? I have no idea. If the parents throw away the instrument of torture, apologise and promise him it will never touch him again, and even if he believes them ... the torture will still not end. He knows that his sight will probably deteriorate in the future as a result; and he knows his parents' state of mind in the present. Both these will cause him anguish if not resolved.

Quite possibly, despite being sore, browbeaten, confused and alienated, the child himself is still the most likely source of a solution. If he could somehow become aware of the fact that the situation is not inherently coercive ... but how could he? In a decent world there would be an internet support group, not for adults who wish they had been forced into treating this condition, but for children who are not forced but enjoy the treatment. But in this respect, we do not live in a decent world.

The problem-solving attitude and some ideas

Posted by **Sarah Fitz-Claridge** (<http://www.fitz-claridge.com/>) on the **TCS List** on Sun, 5 Aug., 2001, at 13:27:08 +0100

A TCS poster wrote:

Can someone give their thoughts on how to deal with a situation please ? A child under 10yrs has been asked by medical workers to wear an eyepatch to make the brain use a lazy-eye. The medical opinion is that if the good eye is not patched for 1 hour a day then the lazy – eye will revert to having blurred vision. There is also medical opinion that the lazy eye can become fixed as blurred if the intervention is not carried out before the age of 10 yrs. The child understands the position but finds wearing the patch annoying.

My heart goes out to this child – and his mother. His mother may find this painful to hear (sorry), but it seems to me that this is as clear an example as one could find of the fact that it is a terrible mistake to assume that any particular problem has no solution. It is vital to approach every problem with the idea that it is possible to solve it – that is to say, that it is possible to solve it in such a way that the parties *prefer* the outcome.

Had mother not been assuming that there was no possible preferable solution, I conjecture that this problem would have been easy to solve. It may still be easy to solve if mother can manage to change her pessimistic attitude, so don't lose heart yet, Mother!

Wearing an eye-patch simply *isn't* inherently coercive. I remember when I was a child that a boy in my class had to wear an eye patch. This boy's mother made him a black pirate-style eye patch, and he would come to school with pirate clothes, a toy stuffed parrot, a pretend peg leg (I think it was a cut down broom handle), and he had clearly been reading pirate stories or something, because he adopted pirate-style language and played pirates every break time. After a short while (the next day in fact), *other* children started coming to school with pirate gear, and *several* wore their own pirate-style eye patches, for *fun*, despite having perfect sight.

Perhaps this child doesn't like watching the marvellous Peter Pan cartoon I have seen on children's television from time to time, but there is bound to be something that would change wearing an eye patch from something unpleasant to something fun. Has this child thought of dressing up like a Borg drone? (I'd definitely go with the Borg drone myself. 7 of 9 is *it!*) The child could go for a standard Borg drone look, or a 7 of 9 look. Has this child thought of copying the rather beautiful Borg bit around 7 of 9's eye, and adapting it to cover his or her eye patch? You could make the patch black, and use aluminium or something to create a beautiful pattern. It could cover more than just the eye. It could look really stylish, and nobody would know it was an eye patch. Plenty of children love wearing fancy dress and masks and partial masks.

Which reminds me, when I was risking life and limb for freedom in Quebec City (see article on my web site if you are curious!) many many people were wearing black gas masks. I should think that might be a bit dramatic, but it would be very easy to hide an eye patch behind one of those gas masks, I can tell you. This child might enjoy dressing up as an alien or something, in one of those masks.

Or perhaps the child isn't at all into monsters and mayhem, and likes peace and beauty. Well in that case, how about dressing up in a very beautiful gown and head dress? I once wore Berber clothes for self-protection when travelling on my own in Morocco. It wouldn't be difficult to make a beautiful costume which covered one eye – or both with a veil, perhaps – which would be no end of fun to wear. The child could be taken to a fabric shop where he or she could choose lots of really beautiful fabric and sequins and glittery bits and pieces, and then spend hours creating different outfits or different ways of draping the fabric.

An hour a day is not very long for dressing up games!

How about trying to find other eye-patch-wearing children to get together with and play dressing up games with? Or if the child is too old for dressing up games, how about making a patch (or a cover for the patch) out of sequins, little mirrors, or some sort of beautiful fabric, which would just look stylish but not be a full fancy dress costume?

N.B. If this family doesn't know about the recent series of Voyager, they don't watch enough television.

If the child and parent try to think about this whole thing differently, I'm sure they will be able to solve the problem.

Best of luck!

3. Adopt the problem-solving spirit

Posted by David Deutsch on the [TCS List](#) on Sun, 5 Aug., 2001 at 18:58:33 +0100

The TCS poster wrote:

Right then- Considering that we obviously don't live in a decent world,

In this respect.

what should the mother do now? Should mother shut her face and leave the child to it?

Probably not.

Should mother read your email to the child?

Maybe. Probably not.

Should mother carry on feeling like she is a total shit because she has tortured her children in this way?

No.

Should mother turn back the clock to over a year ago and anticipate that this eye problem was going to develop and then deal with it in a different way?

No, that isn't possible.

What can mother do NOW for the best to be TCS ?

As I said, I'm afraid I don't know. I do know that there is something to be done for the best, and that it involves TCS.

What would you do David if you were the parent in this situation ? – I know you wouldn't have made the mistakes that have been made up to now in this situation,

Well, perhaps not *those* mistakes, because I happen to be well tuned-in to medical coercion and medical non-coercion. But everyone makes mistakes.

BUT – what can be done now to go forward in a TCS way ?

Mother never planned to be scewing up the child's life. Mother thought she was doing the best for the child's eyesight.

Mother is not convinced that the patching intervention is right but is not medically qualified and was convinced by the eye experts she is concerned that she is playing with child's future eyesight if she now decides to follow some other alternative method.

Well, I see from the medical web sites there are other treatments, such as atropine, which some people prefer, though it may be less effective. There seems to be a little dispute about just how difficult/unlikely it would be to correct this problem in later life. But either way, the consensus seems to be that there is a serious risk to the quality of vision if this problem is not corrected before the age of 10 or so.

Mother is finding it VERY hard to become TCS. Mother doesn't want sympathy – she knows that she is carrying a load of baggage from her life thus far. She also is aware that she needs to do a lot to become even near to TCS. Mother is also aware that she is talking about mother more than she is talking about the child. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO REMEDY THE SITUATION NOW?

As I said, I don't know. Fortunately, SARAH DOES. See her inspiring [message](#) on this thread about the problem-solving attitude – and also her specific suggestions and those that others have posted. The idea is not necessarily to adopt them but to adopt the spirit of them, and then to find perhaps a variant that suits this particular child.

4. How to move forward from here

Posted by [Sarah Fitz-Claridge \(http://www.fitz-claridge.com/\)](http://www.fitz-claridge.com/) on the [TCS List](#) on Sun, 5 Aug., 2001, at 14:23:17 +0100

The TCS poster wrote:

What can mother do NOW for the best to be TCS? Mother never planned to be scewing up the child's life.

Of course not!

Mother thought she was doing the best for the child's eyesight.

Thinking in terms of doing one's best for one's child is a mistake, in that it is not for the parent to make these decisions for the child. This should be a matter of the child's choices, not the parent's. Those choices should be *informed* by the information and arguments from the medical profession, and any other relevant information and arguments the parent has to offer. But informing a child is not the same as taking the decision out of his hands. Any kind of “doing one's best for the child” which is inconsistent with the child's wishes is making the mistake of treating (and seeing) the child as an object instead of a full person in his own right. That attitude, even a hint of that attitude, will cause problems and prevent parent and child solving problems.

Mother is not convinced that the patching intervention is right but is not medically qualified and was convinced by the eye experts she is concerned that she is playing with child's future eyesight if she now decides to follow some other alternative method.

I wonder if perhaps part of this problem may be that Mother suspects that the treatment advised is not even necessary? If the Mother thinks that, that might explain why she is finding it so difficult to think creatively about it. Just a wild speculation. And if the child is picking up these suspicions it may also be one reason why he is not wholehearted about rearranging his life around this theory.

Mother doesn't want sympathy – she knows that she is carrying a load of baggage from her life thus far.

We all are. There is no perfect TCS parent.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO REMEDY THE SITUATION NOW?

This is the right question to ask. It is quite right to think about what to do NOW rather than wallowing in guilt about past mistakes.

Sometimes, to know what to do now, one has to understand something about where one went wrong in the past, hence my comment about the mistake of thinking of doing one's best for the child, and hence David's remarks in his rather dour **first post** in this thread. So the answer is – the two things to do are:

(1) for the parent to work on solving the immediate problem – see my other **post** for some ideas, and David's **second post** in this thread, and

(2) for the parent to try to work on how she sees and treats the child on a deeper level – to try to start thinking of the child as a person for whom she is a trusted advisor, rather than as a parent who should do things to or for the child for his own good. This (2) is what people mean when they refer to the “paradigm shift” of TCS.

I do hope this helps.

to post comments

Comments

eye patch

*Submitted by **a reader (not verified)** (<http://www.visionre.net>) on 10 November, 2005 - 01:18*

Please visit our little three page website....showing how children as young as 3 months of age can tolerate patching and glasses, by the way. Although the ideas are targeted for the 0-3 population, with age-appropriate activities, the carryover can be successful. In my experience as an Early Intervention Vision Teacher, the eyepatch activities are very important...television is only minimally successful in strengthening the eye. Another method, perhaps easier, is to use prescription for Atropine, which a once a day eyedrop. It's proven to be just as effective as a bandage eyepatch.

to post comments

Being a child of an eye

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 27 April, 2006 - 21:25

Being a child of an eye patch, I can say that Mother needs to buck up and do what is right for the healthy well being of the child. Had I not worn an eyepatch when I was a child, my vision would be far worse than it is now. Her whining and comiserating with her child does nothing of benefit for the child.

When I was a child, you did what you were told. Maybe Mother doesn't exert this kind of power in her household? Maybe she **should**.

to post comments

Making eye patching fun

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 10 June, 2006 - 20:40

We solved this problem with our eight year old by chunking the sticky patches and buying a pirate style patch. Although hard to find in kids sizes we bought two from www.eyepatchstore.com (<http://www.eyepatchstore.com>) and they have been great. Kids associate an eye patch with pirates and patching then becomes "pirate time" and fun.

to post comments

eye patch

Submitted by [a reader \(not verified\)](http://www.bjortandcompany.com) (<http://www.bjortandcompany.com>) on 26 July, 2006 - 20:43

I completely understand what this mother is going through. I have a child now 6 years old that started patching at 2 years old and it was very hard. I made a DVD called "The Eye Patch Kids" to help encourage my son to want to wear the patch by making the puppets on the DVD have patches. It is a very highly entertaining and educational DVD to help children understand the need for patching while having fun during that time. The puppets encourage the child throughout the DVD to put on their eye patches to be like the puppets. I have received alot of positive feedback from it. My website is www.bjortandcompany.com (<http://www.bjortandcompany.com>) if you are interested. It will get better eventually. After a while they usually can see better after patching so it becomes more routine. I told my son that if he had a scrape on his knee then we would put a bandaid on it to heal so since his eye has a boo boo the eye patch was just like a bandaid for his eye. Also, there are tons of different eye patches out there now so getting a few and letting your child pick out which one she/he wants to wear each day also gives them some control over the situation. I taught my son to color coordinate them with his outfits so they matched. Good luck and I hope it is a successful experience.

Kelly H. www.bjortandcompany.com (<http://www.bjortandcompany.com>)

to post comments

patching

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 7 September, 2006 - 23:27

I would love to find a little one that my daughter could patch with. She is three and was born with a cataract in one eye. She had a contact in her left eye by 7 weeks old. Our patching is down to 1-3 hours daily, and I usually have to give her special activities the whole time. She does not like it and neither do I! I tried the patch on. It is NOT pleasant. But I know that one day it will be well worth it....

[to post comments](#)

eye patch

Submitted by Nat (not verified) on 14 June, 2007 - 10:35

Hi, I have a lazy eye (love the name!) and was not instructed to wear an eye patch. Had I worn one it is possible that the vision in that eye would have strengthened enough for the brain to accept it and for me to gain binocular vision. I'm sure that I would have disliked the patch. I teach skating to kids and adults and I've found that the adults typically won't wear a helmet but expect the kid to. Those parents who DO wear a helmet get better cooperation from the child. Maybe Mom should wear the patch along with her child as a together thing.

[to post comments](#)

eye patch

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 5 September, 2007 - 14:24

Who's the adult here??? The mom needs to suck it up, get the kid to wear the eye patch and make it fun. Don't focus on the "agony" and pain. My daughter just started wearing an eye patch two weeks ago. She doesn't like it but we don't make a big deal out of it although she will have to wear it all day for six weeks.

Quit focusing on the pain... jeez... can the mom be anymore morbid and defeatist? It's for a few years a few hours a day. Make the kid wear it during TV time. That will shut down the whining fast. (If you want to watch TV, you have to wear your eye patch.) Heck before you know it the kid will look forward to the time he or she has to wear the eye patch.

It will simply become a part of life.

For my daughter, first thing in the morning she puts it on with her glasses- she can't do anything else until it's on... and when she gets home, she can't watch movies or play if the patch has been taken off. Sure when she first got it she cried... cried for two hours in fact. When she realized nothing was doing... she wasn't getting out of it, she settled down and we don't have any problems now.

There's simply no excuse - this mom is contributing to the blindness of her child because she won't step up to the plate and be the adult.

It's simple... as parents we must make difficult decisions. This is one of them. Let's face it, a child under 10 cannot (and doesn't need to really understand) the realities of life 20 years from now if they continue. It's your responsibility to step up to the plate and take charge.

[to post comments](#)

pirates ahoy!

Submitted by Lynae (not verified) (<http://panopoly.org>) on 9 January, 2008 - 12:08

When I was 6 or 7 I was told by a doctor that I needed to wear a patch for my lazy eye. I had no problem with this idea--I thought it was awesome, because I'd just been on a trip to the Caribbean and been given a black eye patch from a man that (I believed) was a real pirate. I was excited to have an excuse to wear the patch to school, whose dress code would have normally forbidden it.

But the doctor insisted that my patch was unacceptable, because it let too much light in and because, in his opinion, it would draw too much negative attention from other children. My parents, normally sensible people, but becoming increasingly caught up in their own problems, did not take my side.

So instead I refused to wear a patch at all.

This incident is part of the reason why I have such bad vision today (another part being another instance of my parents being unwilling to listen to what, to me, felt like very valid complaints about my glasses). I believe it would have been better for my parents to support my chosen course of treatment than to allow me to have no treatment at all, OR to have forced me to follow the doctor's orders.

I believe most children are naturally accommodating and reasonable except when they have a reason not to be. Maybe there is something motivating the child in question not to want the eye patch that is not being addressed?

I remember, for example, that when I broke my collarbone at age 5, having to wear a sling made me miserable because it was boring and white--and so my mom made me a whole collection of different slings out of fabrics that I liked, and let me choose which one to wear each day. Then I didn't mind at all.

Perhaps the child in question just needs to be given different options on how the patch might be worn. Maybe a compromise can be made that may NOT be in full accordance with doctor's orders, but is a better option than forcing the child or having them refuse the treatment entirely. Or perhaps her problem is not with the patch itself, but something relating to it--such as fear of how the other children will treat her, or the fear of being unable to see with one eye. \

to post comments

Play Specialist-eye patch training

Submitted by Julie Goodall (not verified) on 20 May, 2008 - 13:56

Dear Kelly.....I am a Play Specialist on a children's Ward and often have referrals from our eye department to encourage them to wear their patches..I use play to encourage this. We make pirates eye patches and colour etc. I have successfully used reward charts and a egg timer. children find the concept of time very difficult. So we keep the eye patch on till the timer goes off. We then get a sticker and when we get a agreed amount ther is a reward....We can then increase the time between rewards very easily..... I am very interested to obtain your dvd to add to my programme to help with such a important part of the correction. Thank you Julie x x

to post comments

My child patches

Submitted by gabi2font2 (not verified) on 7 July, 2008 - 02:45

My child is 4 1/2 and has been patching since about six months after being born with a cataract in onw eye. It has been easier for us because my daughter knows nothing else but the patch and her glasses. We still have rough patches (no pun intended!) and now that she is in school we discovered that like most children, they will listen to thier teacher and not thier parents. My daughter patches 4 hours a day during the school week during her school work. You might try to get your child to patch at school. If the teacher resists, you might be able to get a doctors note and make the school patch your child. GOOD LUCK!

to post comments

Cute eye patches.

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 1 August, 2008 - 23:58

Go to patchpals.com and order these custom-made patches. They are adorable and much more comfortable than the plain black ones at the stores. They fit right over the glasses with no elastic needed to hold them on. My not-quite-7 year old granddaughter loves them and does wear hers for at least 5 hours a day. Another place is framehuggers.com and there is a store on Ebay that makes them.

to post comments

OK, so depending on the age

Submitted by knmapete on 12 August, 2008 - 05:41

OK, so depending on the age of the child, show him pictures of older people who never wore a patch. My father's picture would be perfect. That is why I never complained about wearing mine, just from seeing his eye, that hung lifeless off to one side with no vision in it at all anymore. I wore mine knowing what I was preventing, not just the vision, but the aesthetics of it. Noone looks good with an eye that never focuses on anything, that always looks off to to the right. (I'm talking how I thought back then, not now) but it was very motivating knowing that I was possibly preventing that.

to post comments

Let your child choose his own

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 20 October, 2008 - 20:47

Let your child choose his own patch by visiting www.meyepatch.co.uk (<http://www.meyepatch.co.uk>) They are reusable fabric patches which are worn on the glasses and are much nicer for a child to wear than the sticky patches. Good luck!

to post comments

Do you appreciate quality?

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 28 October, 2008 - 04:23

Your child's vision should not be taken lightly so don't go easy on him nor the cost of what it takes to get quality occlusion. If your going to patch your child with a cloth eye patch at least do your child a favor and research it a little before buying the first thing that pops up. People are already posting some of the worst eye patches I've seen for trying to actually correct the issues at hand. Your child's vision is at stake here.. If you were handed a Ferrari and a 1969 Volkswagen bus that broke down on occasion that cost roughly the same amount which would you choose? Patches I've found can be categorized the same way. Simply put.. If you want the best "quality" eye patch that blocks everything on all sides then you want a Framehugger from <http://www.framehuggers.com> (<http://www.framehuggers.com>). There is no comparison in quality and if you properly research this you will find it to be true. Just look at the pictures of the patches alone and you can see a night and day difference between a quickly sewn two stitch patch to one that is custom made to you or your child's frame. A couple dollars should not be the difference between your child improving or slipping further back into darkness as the most critical time has come if you are in the patching phase.. Don't let your child rule you in how this process should be. You grab the bull by the horns and do whatever is necessary to save your child's vision. Your only going to get one shot at success so you might as well do it right the first time. Thank you and god bless

ps. She also has a reward system with a game board and teddy bear that has a matching outfit and eye patch that the child can use as a buddy. Reward systems as mentioned above definitely are a nice persuading tool to get your child to comply.

to post comments

I was patched on and off

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 28 March, 2009 - 16:50

I was patched on and off (mostly on) from the age of three to twelve.

(Full disclosure: in the end, it didn't help, and I have basically monocular vision, but basically good vision in my "non lazy" eye. My brain copes just fine and I can drive and do all the things one would normally expect, except for use 3-D glasses (I only see whichever color is over my left eye).)

Given how long this tug of war has gone on, I doubt that the child in this situation will ever fully reconcile to wearing the patch. And let's be blunt here, while the child may honestly forget to wear the patch occasionally, he doesn't want to wear it and won't do so voluntarily.

(I was exactly the same. A long battle with absolutely no apparent understanding of my situation (*and the ludicrous assumption that I would have the maturity to accept the argument that it would make my vision better in the future when it was essentially making me blind in the present*) made it impossible for me to view the patch, and my mother's enforcement of it, with bitterness.)

A couple of things the mother can try going forward however - bearing in mind that the child will in all likelihood never view the patch in a positive light:

Given that the child only has to wear it one hour a day should make this easier for the mother.

1.) make sure the patching occurs in privacy. Never in company, even family if the child is at all reluctant. 2.) accept that the blurriness the child is experiencing probably feels akin to blindness to them. Therefore, don't expect the child to do anything visual - no homework or chores; but also don't have any planned distractions be overly visual - an hour playing computer games you can't see is probably more irritating than fun, for example. Maybe pick up some audio books of your child's favorite stories and let them listen to them for an hour while wearing the patch. 3.) a reward system. If the child wears the patch every day for a week, say, take him out for a ice cream. If he wears it every day all month, a movie. Something like that.

Don't allow the child to forget - and bear in mind the child isn't going to volunteer for patching, not even for ice cream once a week. But don't nag either. Instead of "you're not wearing your patch" or "why aren't you wearing your patch", have a set time for the patching, go to the child, tell them it's time for that, and sit down with while they're listening to their audio book or whatever, "let's do this" style.

Also, another consideration - the stick on bandaid patches may be uncomfortable especially in summer - consider getting one (or more) or the cloth kind (there are even some funky looking ones that might help the child feel less ridiculous - you can get them online if you can't find them locally). This is especially relevant in hot weather.

Also - though this might only have been me - it's possible that the child associates the look/feel of the patches with bandaids (and thus injury) and if the child's had eye surgery, the band-aid style patches may seem, well, like a reminder of injury, essentially. I couldn't have articulated that at ten, but looking back on it, I think it may well have been a factor. The sweating and sticking was definately a real annoyance though.

to post comments

being 'coerced' is part of

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 2 March, 2010 - 10:44

being 'coerced' is part of being a kid. Parents are in charge, they tell the kid what to do. This may be unpleasant for the kid at times, but is best for them. They don't allways know better or figure things out on thier own. This coercion is ultimatly what drives us to grow up, establish independence from out parents and start living our own lives. Just make the kid wear the stinking patch. Feeling bad isn't the guilt of being mean. Its emotional blackmail. don't cave. The kid will be better for it. It will build character, discipline (and perhaps the most counterintuitive result) self control. Its sometimes easier to do unpleasant things if someone is making you do it and you have no choice. this can be a good thing in the long run if what the kid is being forced to do is something they need to do. Sorta like being ordered to take a bath.

to post comments

eye patch HELP!!!

Submitted by momof3chicks on 12 May, 2010 - 12:42

As I type this my 5 year old is wearing her eye patch now. She has a turned in "lazy" eye. Even before we got her patch we talked about it w/ her & she was dead set against wearing it! I went online & googled kids eye patch to find something other then the stocky medical kind. I wanted to find something fun that she would like if she HAD

to wear it. :-) This is what I found: <http://www.framehuggers.com/index.htm> It is an eye patch that fits over the glasses. The child can pick the color they like & a special cartoon APPLIQUE that goes on it! My daughter chose pink w/ polka dots & it has a doggie on it as well. She was very excited to pick it out & couldn't wait to get it. When we got the patch & it was time to wear it then it was a different story. She CRIED about it & did not like it AT ALL! Then we started making it "SPECIAL" time. We made up games & activities to do during the time she wore it. Now she looks forward to it MOST days. Google activities to do wearing eye patch. Hope this helps~!

to post comments

These eye patches worked for

Submitted by A mom (not verified) on 21 May, 2010 - 13:46

These eye patches worked for me. So many fun drawings to choose from. They are nice because each patch has a different picture so kids get a variety and they can match the eye patch sticker to their outfit. Plus they are affordable. <http://eye-doodle.com/> (<http://eye-doodle.com/>).

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My experience fwiw

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 14 August, 2010 - 02:17

Hello. Whether or not this is indeed relevant I do not know but I am an adult eye patch wearer. My left eye is painful to the light and I cannot see anything but gray kkhkghngb7cghdc out of it so I have to patch it to do ordinary things so that I can enjoy life with perfect vision without fuzzy interference and migraine. I won't go into detail as to why it is like it is; but essentially I feel that I cannot go out wearing it although it hurts my bad eye. I have to wear shades even indoors in public. I feel that it is a such a huge social issue that I do not go out of the house much, and have had mental health issues as a consequence; as a matter of fact I suffer from social anxiety disorder. Having to wear an eye patch sucks. There is no other way to say that. It is the truth. It sucks because it is the first thing people see and notice about you. When I have worn mine out kids shout 'pirate' etc and laugh. I am a 30 year old woman. It isn't nice. If I was told that my child would have to wear one I would probably not let it happen and look at laser eye surgery when they are old enough to have it instead. I guess children are cruel and even more keen to point out social differences. Unfortunately surgery is not an option for me and I just have to sit in my house wearing my albeit designer snake-skin patch. Being one eyed in itself is not a bad thing. There isn't all that much difference apart from you need to turn your head around more and you can't look at magic eye books, but having to wear a patch is definitely a bad thing. I sometimes seriously think about getting my eyeball removed and get a glass one instead but then that would just be even worse socially.

Thats just my personal grouchy one eyed biased opinion though ;)

to post comments

eye patching a two year old...

Submitted by Veronica (not verified) on 12 August, 2011 - 04:31

We have been advised to patch our little boys eye for an hour before bed and have bought a fun patch and some special fun glasses. He just pulls them off and we don't want to make a deal of it. Am thinking of some games to make it more fun...any suggestions. The Dr said there is the option of surgery but I was wondering do they use eye drops as an alternative to eye patching when a child is so young...Any advise would be fabulous ...thank you.

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A Kid that had to wear one too!

Submitted by a reader (not verified) on 14 January, 2012 - 08:20

hi! So as I kid I was told to wear an eyepatch too. I hated it, I hid them, torn them up, and threw them away. But I really regret not wearing it because I have really bad vision. So my best advice is to tell her she can not wear them and risk her vision becoming worse or she can wear while she reads(have her only read LARGE PRINT) or watches tv with sub-titles. It sucks and you feel like a dork but in the end you will be happy you did it.

Best wishes!

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