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Rajesh C. Rao, MD  
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Alexandra Williamson, OD

## Children's Eye Care's Orthoptic Program

Judy Petrunak, CO, COT – Program Director  
John D Roarty, MD, MPH – Medical Director

### Program Description

The Orthoptic Program at Children's Eye Care of Michigan is a twenty-four month comprehensive and accredited program of academic and clinical instruction in orthoptics and related ophthalmic studies. Set in a clinical teaching environment, orthoptic education is taught through clinical exposure and didactic instruction by a diverse and experienced staff of orthoptists and ophthalmologists dedicated to patient care and education. Upon the successful completion of an orthoptic program, candidates are eligible to become nationally certified orthoptists through written, oral and practical board examinations administered by the American Orthoptic Council. They are also invited to join the American Association of Certified Orthoptists, a dynamic and active professional organization of orthoptists.

### Curriculum

The Orthoptic Program at Children's Eye Care consists of supervised clinical training combined with didactic instruction. Lectures, textbooks, journal publications and printed proceedings from scientific symposia and conferences form the basis of the didactic resources. The curriculum includes ophthalmic optics, visual assessment techniques, ocular and neuro anatomy, motor and sensory physiology, pharmacology, disorders of eye movements and ocular motility, diagnostic testing, congenital and systemic diseases affecting the eye, and principles of surgical and non-surgical treatment.

### Application and Admission

Admission into the Orthoptic Program at Children's Eye Care requires a baccalaureate degree. A background in the biological sciences is preferred but not mandatory. The Graduate Record Exam is not required. The application process begins with the review of a written application, a copy of university transcripts and three letters of recommendation. Applicants are required to attend a personal interview at Children's Eye Care. Applications are accepted from January through March of each year. Students are selected in April, and officially begin in September of the same year. Typically, one student is accepted per year into this program.

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The Orthoptic Program at Children's Eye Care of Michigan cannot accept applications from those who are not U.S. Citizens unless the applicant holds a Green Card. It is extremely difficult to obtain a student visa to study orthoptics in the United States.

### Costs

Tuition for the full two-year program including textbooks is \$3000 USD. The student is financially responsible for all living expenses as well as transportation needs. A car is required, as the student will be attending various Children's Eye Care clinical sites within a 15-20 mile radius of metropolitan Detroit. In addition, the student is responsible for all expenses to one regional or national orthoptic meeting during their training period.

For more information, contact:

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c/o Children's Eye Care, PC  
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[judy@cecmich.com](mailto:judy@cecmich.com)

If you're interested in applying for our program, download the application form.

For general information about orthoptics, visit [www.orthoptics.org](http://www.orthoptics.org)

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