



InfantSEE® Scholarship Essays: 2016, 2015

Each paper needs to address EACH of the following topics:

1. What have you done as a student to prepare yourself to become an active participant as an InfantSEE® provider?
2. How have your clinical experiences directly contributed to your development as a future participant in the InfantSEE® program, and how you will translate these experiences into clinical practice as an InfantSEE® provider?
3. What do you see as the major challenges to providing optometric care to infants, and how would you overcome these challenges?
4. Describe how you would personally promote the InfantSEE® program and what you envision as the most effective method of marketing the importance of infant vision as an entry point into a lifetime of eye care at a state and national level.



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Essay ▶ InfantSEE® Scholarship, 2016 1st Place Winner

Shelby Nicole Baugh Bruner, University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry

The InfantSEE® program epitomizes the importance of identifying children with vision development problems and ocular health problems at an early age. The success rate of correction and treatment is maximized if a condition is detected early. I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the benefits that InfantSEE® offers both patients and participating practitioners. I will undoubtedly be an InfantSEE® provider upon completing my optometric education.

In order to become an active participant as an InfantSEE provider, I have begun to prepare myself as a student. I have worked in two different practices that conduct InfantSEE® examinations. By familiarizing myself with the paperwork and process of conducting an InfantSEE exam, I believe that I will be well prepared to take on the role of InfantSEE® provider upon graduation. I have also observed and scribed during many InfantSEE® examinations as an ophthalmic technician. I have taken case histories, administered dilating agents, and assisted in any way possible. Another form of preparation that will undoubtedly be useful is the pediatric experience during optometry school. I have taken, and will take, many pediatrics courses during my time at the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry. I also recently attended an informative presentation on the program. The presentation was titled “InfantSEE®—Taking Infant and Children’s Care into the Community” and was hosted by UMSL and the St. Louis Optometric Society. I feel that by continuing to go to these informative presentations, I can stay up to date on any changes within the program. I believe that all of this, in addition to my passion for educating the public on the importance of eye care at an early age, will prepare me to be an active participant as an InfantSEE® provider.



Although I imagine it to be a very fulfilling role, I don’t expect being an InfantSEE® provider to come without challenges. I expect attention and timing to be two of the biggest challenges encountered when examining infants. I plan to overcome these challenges by scheduling InfantSEE® examinations in the morning when the infants will hopefully be most attentive. I also plan to have parents complete the history questionnaire prior to the appointment, perhaps online or mailed in. I will look over the documents prior to examining the infant to make the examination as efficient as possible. I will rely heavily on objective measurements throughout the examination and use interesting toys and targets to gain the infant’s attention and to make the examination an enjoyable experience.

As with any organization, educating the public is of the utmost importance for the InfantSEE® program. In order for InfantSEE® to be an effective tool for early detection of potential eye and vision problems, as well as establishing the importance of regular eye care, the public needs to be made aware of the organization and of the problems that this organization works to solve. The InfantSEE® website is a great place to direct parents because it outlines the goals of the program, provides statistics on vision problems and eye diseases that develop in children, and includes

clinical data demonstrating the need for InfantSEE®. I also feel as though a commercial advertisement would be a successful method of marketing at both the state and national level. A brief commercial stating the importance of infant eye examinations, as well as a concise introduction to the InfantSEE® program, would go a long way towards educating the public. I plan on personally doing some creative things when it comes to promoting InfantSEE® in my future practice. One extra thing I plan on doing is making up gift baskets for local pediatricians that include pamphlets and flyers about the InfantSEE® program. I think communicating with pediatricians about the InfantSEE® program could greatly increase

the number of parents who are aware of the program. Overall, InfantSEE® providers must take on the responsibility of educating the public on the importance of early and regular eye examinations. I know that I am willing and ready to take on that responsibility.

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