

**Scoliosis** is a condition of the spine that a child is born with. In scoliosis, the vertebrae are shaped like wedges rather than blocks. As the child has the period of rapid growth usually associated with puberty, any abnormality in the spine may become more obvious, perhaps causing an abnormal curve in the spine. If left untreated, it can cause problems later as the organs in the body may become cramped. The treatment for scoliosis may be: no treatment, exercises to strengthen the muscles on the opposite side, or surgery depending on the severity. Most cases of severe scoliosis are already known by this age.

The initial screening for scoliosis is a simple procedure in which the child's posture is inspected as he/she stands and then bends forward. If an abnormality is suspected, your doctor may order an x-ray which is the only sure way to diagnose scoliosis. If you have a question about whether your child's posture has been evaluated, please talk to your physician. If you would like an initial postural evaluation by the school nurse, please contact her at 330.335.1460, extension 6112. For more information on scoliosis, go to [www.srs.org/patients/](http://www.srs.org/patients/).