Some very special children are born without eyes.

Come with Katie as she visits her Eye Man to have her new pretend eye made.

by Karen Sapp
MACS was formed in 1994 by a group of parents whose children were born with Anophthalmia (no eye), Microphthalmia (small eye) and Coloboma (a gap or cleft of the eye). Over the years we have gone from strength to strength and now, as well as providing much needed support for the families of these special children, we hold an Annual Family weekend, provide grants, respite holidays, and many, varied regional events around the country. We provide support for the children too and even have some of the "grown up" children helping to run the group with us!
I am going to have my new eye made today.

I won’t be able to see out of it, but it will look just like my own eye. It will even be the same colour!

Sitting in the chair is fun, and it even gives me a ride up and down.
My Eye Man has a badge with his name on, and wears a white coat. I think it should be blue like my new eye is going to be!
My Eye Man looks into my eye. I am a bit scared but mummy said that he is very gentle and he won't hurt me. I wonder if he has a pretend eye like mine?
He mixes up some custard to make a wobbly wobbly mould. It is cold, but it doesn’t hurt. By the time I count to 30 the custard is ready to come out.
My Eye Man uses the custard to make a wax mould of my new eye. Now we have to see how well it fits...
...and then he paints the iris colour. He uses a very fine brush not like the ones I love to paint with!
He says he will write to us when my new eye is ready. I can't wait to see it and to show everyone!
Hurray, here is my new eye! My Eye man has polished it for me and it is nice and shiny.
Now I look the same on both sides! Mummy must remember to help me look after it carefully, and to keep it clean by washing it in soap and water.

As I get bigger I have to have new clothes and shoes, and I will have to have a new, bigger pretend eye too.

I wonder if my Eye Man will have a blue coat next time?
MACS's mascot is MACS the MONKEY. He is loved and adored by everyone who meets him.

You can find out more about him on Facebook and can even become a fan of his.

www.facebook.com/#!/MACSTheMonkey