

**PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY AND
DISPENSING OPTICIANS**

(BINOCULAR VISION AND PAEDIATRIC OPTOMETRY)

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CHILD VISION CARE

ELEMENTS OF VISION SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN

Vision screening is important for the early detection of abnormal visual conditions that may affect the development of the visual system. The value of early visual screening is to be able to pick up any congenital factors and to prevent the development of amblyopia ("lazy eye"), strabismus (squints) and their resultant effects on visual efficiency. Vision screening **MUST** be conducted by a registered health professional. Should there be visual abnormalities detected, referrals should be conducted in accordance with the ethical regulations of the HPCSA.

Screening should be conducted only with informed written consent from parents/guardians of the minor. Although it is the health professionals right to charge a fee, the PBODO considers vision screening as part of community service and charging of fees is discouraged. Vision screening should be conducted at least once during pre-school period, primary school and thereafter upon entry into secondary school.

A basic vision screening for a child should include the following elements at a minimum:

- 1.) Uncorrected/habitual VA (R, L, Both) at 3m (pre-schoolers) and 6m (schoolgoing age) and 40cm for near.
(age-appropriate crowded/LOGMAR visual acuity charts *must* be used)
 - 2.) Pinhole VA (R, L, Both) where $VA < 6/9$ /retinoscopy
 - 3) Plus 1.50DS/2,00DS lenses evaluation (latent Hyperopia) /retinoscopy
 - 4) Cover Test at distance and near
 - 5) Monocular and binocular oculomotor evaluation in all positions of gaze
 - 6) Accommodative amplitude and facility tests
 - 7) NPC
 - 8) Pupil responses
 - 9) Color vision
 - 10) Stereopsis
 - 11) Goodenough Harris Drawing Test or equivalent.
 - 12) External ocular health
 - 13) Internal ocular health
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Elements of a Comprehensive Child Visual Examination

A COMPREHENSIVE CHILD VISION EXAMINATION is important for the early detection of abnormal visual conditions that may affect the development of the visual system. The value of conducting a comprehensive visual examination is that most of the visual defects/anomalies in early childhood can be reversed with appropriate management.

It is important that age appropriate tests and management procedures must be utilized.

1. Case History
2. Uncorrected/habitual VA (R, L, Both) at 3m(pre-schoolers) and 6m(schoolgoing age) and 40cm. (age-appropriate crowded/LOGMAR visual acuity charts *must* be used)
3. Cycloplegic and/or static/dynamic retinoscopy
4. Cycloplegic/Subjective refraction
5. Cover Test at distance and near
6. Vergence ability: ranges, compensation, facilities and other tests for detecting vergence anomalies.
7. Monocular and binocular oculomotor evaluation in all positions of gaze
8. Accommodative amplitude, response (LAG & LEAD), facility tests and other tests for detecting accommodative anomalies.
9. Convergence evaluation
10. Pupil responses
11. Color vision
12. Stereopsis
13. Goodenough Harris Drawing Test or equivalent.
14. External ocular health
15. Internal ocular health

If strabismus, esophoria, amblyopia or other visual developmental abnormalities were indicated from case history and /or preliminary examination, a cycloplegic examination would be compulsory.

In cases where a strabismus is suspected and/or diagnosed the following tests are compulsory:

- Sensory adaptation tests (EF, ARC, Suppression testing)
- In cases where visual related learning deficiencies are suspected the child's entire motor and sensory system perceptual must also be evaluated.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

Comprehensive child visual examinations (up to age 13 yrs) will need to include all the named tests as well as DEM or NYSOA (or equivalent) at a minimum.

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT LISTS:

In order to examine children, the practitioner must have available within the practice the following equipment as a MINIMUM, in addition to the minimum equipment needed for the basic visual examination.

- LEA SYMBOLS/ HOTV/BROKEN WHEEL VA TESTS
- MEM READING CARDS
- PRISM BAR SET(H & V)
- DEM/NYSOA-KD
- COLOUR VISION TESTS (eg. ISHIHARA, cv MADE EASY,PV16,HRR)
- LENS & PRISM FLIPPERS
- STEREOPSIS TESTS(RANDOM DOT TEST)
- GOODENOUGH TEST/EQUIVALENT
- TESTS FOR ASSOCIATED PHORIAS (WESSON FIXATION DISPARITY CARDS, BROCK POSTURE,)
- RED-GREEN ANAGLYPHS
- POLARIZERS
- SUPPRESSION TESTS (W- 4- D, 3 FIGURE, STEREOSCOPES)