



VISION SCREENING FOR 4 TO 5 YEAR OLDS

Vision screening

The NHS recommends vision screening at age 4 to 5 years. We want to identify children with reduced vision in one or both eyes. The aim is to detect any problems early so your child can receive effective treatment.

Reduced vision

Vision continues to develop from birth to around 8 years of age. Children rarely complain of having poor vision and it can easily go unnoticed, especially if it only affects one eye.

Reduced vision can have an impact on a child's learning and development. This is why we recommend vision screening at age 4 to 5 years.

Reduced vision is caused by the brain not receiving a clear image from one or both eyes.

Reasons could include a need for glasses or a squint (a 'turn' in the eye).

Glasses and/or eye patches may be recommended as part of the treatment.

The screening test

Vision screening is carried out in your child's school.

We will assess your child's vision using a letter matching test. The test is fun and your child does NOT need to know their letters. We will use a pair of glasses with one eye blanked out. The test is entirely safe and children enjoy playing the letter matching game.

Possible results

If screening suggests reduced vision, we will send you a letter confirming this and we will refer your child for further tests. These will take place in the hospital eye service through Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust or East Cheshire NHS Trust who will then recommend the best treatment for your child. They can be contacted on the numbers below..

If screening does not suggest reduced vision, we will send you a letter confirming this.

Vision screening has been proven to be effective nationally but like all types of screening some eye conditions may not be detected.

The child vision screening programme is the only chance for all children to get their vision tested formally.

This enables problems to be found and treated quickly at the start of their school life, helping ensure they can reach their full potential.

Your child's vision can change over time. If you have any concerns in the future you can arrange to see a High Street Optometrist or your GP, currently children's eye tests are free.