

West Sussex 5-19 Healthy Child Programme Screening Team
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Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Reception Year Vision Screening

In many schools, children in Reception Year will have their vision checked through Child Vision Screening. However, Covid-19 has caused major interruptions in education and child health services. This has meant that the vision screening services have been delayed, postponed or cancelled for some of the children who started Reception Year in 2020.

Children often cope very well with some eye problems which need to be identified and treated early to avoid lifelong visual loss. For this reason, it is important that even children with apparently normal vision should be tested. The screening assessment ensures that your child has good vision in both eyes, and that their vision is developing normally. It is performed at this age so that any reduced vision or difference in vision between each eye can be picked up before the visual system is fully developed and any treatment necessary can be started.

If your child falls into either of the groups below then you do not need to do anything. You should ignore this letter if your child:

- is currently under the care of an Ophthalmologist/Orthoptist/Optomestrist at your local Hospital Eye Clinic
- Or
- is currently under the care of a local Optometrist (Optician) or had a recent sight test.

If your child meets the following criteria please contact us by the 7th June 2021, on the above details to arrange a vision screen either in a school or a community clinic:

- Parents wore glasses in childhood and/ or had a squint
- Or
- Siblings wear glasses

If none of the above applies, please arrange with your local optometry practice (optician) for your child to have a free NHS sight test.

Please telephone the practice to book an appointment. You may have to wait a few weeks before an appointment can be offered. You will not have to pay for the sight test.

We recommend your child has this sight test in case she/he has a problem which requires treatment. Young children rarely complain about having reduced vision. If only one eye is affected it is even less likely to be noticed by the child, parents or anyone else. A sight test will identify any problems. The optometrist (optician) will be able to explain the results and any next steps with you during the sight test.

For further information, please visit www.nhs.uk/childrens-eyes

Yours sincerely,

Healthy Child Programme 5-19 Team
West Sussex



Excellent care at the heart of the community