

Orthoptic Vision Screening for Children Aged 4 Years

Who will my child see?

Your child will be seen by a qualified orthoptist who is trained and experienced at testing a child's vision. An orthoptist has a detailed knowledge of visual development in childhood and will be able to use the most appropriate tests for your child's age and ability.

What will the Orthoptist be testing for?

- Whether each eye can see properly.
- If there is a squint (turn in one eye).
- Whether the eyes move normally.
- If binocular vision is present (important for judging depth).
- Normal colour vision.

Why are children tested at this age?

- At the age of 4 it is easy to accurately test a child's vision in a way that they enjoy.

- Treatment of most vision problems detected at this age will achieve a good result.
- It is important that any vision problems are detected early in their education.

What happens at the screening appointment?

The appointment will take 10-15 minutes and we aim to make the visit fun for your child. As part of the assessment, your child will be asked to name familiar pictures; they do not need to recognise letters of the alphabet. To test the vision in each eye separately, we use a piece of soft paper tape as a patch. This is slightly sticky but does not hurt and most children of 4 are quite happy to have one eye covered.

You will be given a written record of the result of the appointment and a copy will be sent to your health visitor.

Will I be able to arrange an appointment time to suit me?

We try to offer appointments at a time of day to suit you. For clinics at some locations we are restricted to certain days of the week, but if this is not convenient we may be able to offer you an appointment at another location nearby. We would not recommend an appointment time when your child is likely to be tired as they will find it more difficult to concentrate during their visit.

We realise this appointment may have to be during school hours but most schools should be happy for you to attend this important appointment.

What happens if a problem is found?

The orthoptist will refer your child for further assessment and treatment. Depending on the nature of the problem found, further assessment may take place at your local clinic or you may be asked to attend the West of England Eye Unit in Exeter. The orthoptist will write to your GP and let them know that a problem has been found.

Will my child be offered any routine eye tests after this?

Your child will not routinely have their vision tested at school. If you do have concerns about your child's vision in the future, they are entitled to free eye tests with an optometrist (optician) until they reach the age of 16, or under 19 if still in full time education.

*If you have any further questions you would like to ask, please telephone **01392 406031** and ask to speak to one of the orthoptists.*

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The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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