



# Pre School Vision Screening

## Nursery Eye Test

Information for Staff





## WHAT IS HAPPENING?

NHS Lanarkshire is working in partnership with both North and South Lanarkshire Council. We will offer all children a free eye test. This will be offered in the year before they start school.

This replaces the eye test that used to be carried out by health visitors and school nurses. This will be the only vision screening test children will have.

These tests will pick up eye problems that are easily fixed. This will normally be with glasses and/or an eye patch.

It is important that we do this screening test with this age group. This allows time to correct any eyesight problems before the child starts school.

### Why is this happening?

This is in response to the Health for All Children Report.

From this report, it is suggested:

- ❖ We offer children an eye test before they start school. In their pre-school nursery year if possible.
- ❖ The test should be done by an orthoptist.

Orthoptists are trained to test for and treat eyesight problems in young children. They are the most appropriate professional to carry out the screening tests.

## WHAT DOES THE TEST INVOLVE?

The test should show any problems with the child's eye sight or a squint.

- ❖ It takes about 10 minutes
- ❖ It involves matching pictures or letters
- ❖ Looking at a light
- ❖ No eye-drops are used.

After the test:

- ❖ The orthoptist will give a note of the child's result to the nursery staff
- ❖ They should then pass this onto the parent/carer when the child is collected.

## What happens if a problem is found?

If a problem with eye-sight is suspected the child will be referred to a specialist. This will either be to the hospital eye service and/or community optician for further tests.

If these further tests confirm that there is a problem, they will be offered treatment. Treatment is usually glasses and/or an eye patch.

## **Is the nursery eye sight check-up fool proof?**

The test in the nursery is very good, but as it is a screening test. It is not perfect.

If the parent/carer still has worries about the child's eye sight, they should seek advice from their general practitioner (GP) or a local optician.

## **HOW WILL THE EYE TEST BE ARRANGED?**

Patient information leaflets and opt out consent forms will be sent to the nursery. Nursery staff will give these to parents/carers before the screening visit.

If the parents/carers do not wish their child to be screened, they should return the completed form to the nursery. The nursery staff will give this to the screening team on the day.

Children who already attend the hospital eye service do not need to be screened.

It is an opt out consent process. If parents/carers do not return the forms, we will assume consent is given. It is vital that the parent/carer is given the forms before the screening visit.

A member of the screening team will phone to arrange a suitable date. A poster for display will sent to the nursery to display. This will let the parents/carers know when the eye tests are taking place.

## **HOW INVOLVED IN THE VISION SCREENING WILL THE NURSERY STAFF BE?**

Nursery staff will prepare the paperwork and contact the parent/ carer and child. This will help support the programme.

A dedicated member of staff for the screening programme would be helpful.

If the nursery staff could bring the children to the screening room and check that the name of the child matches the child being tested, this will help us carry out the screening with the least disruption.

### **How often will the orthoptist visit the nursery?**

This depends on:

- ❖ How many children need tested
- ❖ How smoothly the sessions run.

The aim is to test 20 children per session. This could be a morning or afternoon session.

### **Will nursery staff be told the results of the test?**

After the test, a note of the child's result will be left with the nursery staff. This will be put in a sealed envelope to pass onto the parent/ carer when the child is collected. The results of a child's screening test are not normally shared with nursery staff. We will only share them if there are significant child health/safety concerns.

## WHAT FACILITIES DOES THE ORTHOPTIST NEED?

On the day of the test the orthoptist will need:

- ❖ An area of three metres in length
- ❖ Somewhere quiet and free from distraction
- ❖ Somewhere close to the nursery class/playroom
- ❖ A small table
- ❖ One full size chair
- ❖ Chairs for the children

If you need to discuss anything about the test, please call:

Ashleigh Mellors, Orthoptic Team Lead  
01355 585352

For information about scheduling visits, contact:

Screening Administration Team  
01698 754 279.

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Enquiry Line: 0300 30 30 243

**NHS inform** - The national health information service for Scotland.  
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