

Screening Information Sheet

VISION SCREENING IN PRESCHOOLERS

Did you know that one of every four children has a vision problem? Children can't tell us that they don't see things clearly. Most vision problems don't hurt, and children don't know how they should see.

Wouldn't I know if my child had a vision problem?

Not necessarily. Many children have vision problems but do not show any signs or have any symptoms. Remember, many vision problems are not obvious.

How can I know if my child has a vision problem?

Preschool vision screening tests are able to correctly identify up to 68 percent of children with poor vision (refractive errors) who would benefit from a **comprehensive** vision examination. Researchers estimate that 10-15 percent of children ages 3-5 have significant refractive error (e.g. nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism).

What is the difference between a vision screening and an eye exam?

A vision screening is not the same as an eye exam. A **vision screening** is used to **find** possible vision problems that may not be obvious and may need further attention. A vision screening is done by a trained health professional. An **eye exam** is done by an eye doctor and is used to **diagnose** a vision problem and prescribe or suggest treatment (like glasses).



Which screening test will be used?

We will use the SureSight Vision Screener to test for refractive error. The child will look into an instrument and view a blinking light. The instrument records information about both eyes to see if a referral to an eye doctor may be needed.

HEARING SCREENING

What is the goal of the hearing screening?

The goal of screening for hearing loss in preschoolers is to identify children most likely to have hearing loss that may interfere with language development, health, or future school performance.

Which hearing test will be used?

We will use an instrument called a Ero Scan (pictured on the right). The Ero Scan is used to detect outer and middle ear disorders. An ear tip is inserted in the ear to obtain a seal. A soft sound will travel through the ear canal, the middle ear to the inner ear, and then will travel back to the ear tip which measures the emission. The results may indicate that a follow up with your pediatrician or family doctor is needed.



[Screenings provided by the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida](#)