

HEALTHCHECK SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PEDIATRIC EYE PROBLEMS

By incorporating the following screening procedures into your program for HealthCheck screens, you'll be able to make the earliest possible referrals for strabismus, amblyopia, and other serious eye problems, which you may encounter.

Age	Recommended Procedures	Refer to an ophthalmologist if you find:
Newborn (nursery exam)	Consider history, examine external ocular structures. Assess infant's ability to follow your face. Perform red and reflex gemini test. Try to examine fundi.	Any impediment to flow of light to the retina, infection, malformation, corneal abnormalities, or photophobia.
2 months	Check external ocular structures. Perform red reflex gemini test. Test pupillary reflexes.	Any condition listed above or abnormal pupillary response.
3 – 4 months	Ask parent if child's eyes always seem aligned and appear to be working together. Examine external ocular structures. Perform red reflex gemini / corneal light reflex test and cover test. Test pupillary reflexes.	Any condition listed above. ¹
6 months	Update history. If history is negative, perform red reflex gemini / corneal light reflex test and cover test, text pupillary reflexes and examine fundi.	Any condition listed above or any indication of misalignment or abnormal eye movement.
6 months to 2 – 3 years	Update history. Perform red reflex gemini / corneal light reflex test and cover test.	Any condition listed above.
2 -3 years (when child begins to become verbal)	Update history. If negative, perform red reflex gemini / corneal light reflex test and cover test. Test visual acuity in each eye separately with Allen picture cards.	Any condition listed above or test results suggesting a great difference in visual acuity between the two eyes. ²
3 – 4 years (approximately)	Same as above, but consider using E game or HOTV chart to test visual acuity.	Any condition listed above. ²
4 years (or when child becomes literate)	Same as above, but consider using a standard Snellen's chart to assess visual acuity.	Any condition listed above. ²
¹ You might want to refer if you find any indication of misalignment or abnormal eye movement; at least plan to recheck your finding before 6 months of age.		
² A difference of 5 ft in the Allen picture card test or of 2 lines in the E game, HOTV chart or Snellen's chart indicates a significant difference in visual acuity.		