

Vision Screening

FACTS:

- All Washtenaw County children receive vision screenings during preschool, kindergarten, grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, and during driver's education classes. Special education students receive screenings during alternating years. During a vision screening, each student is tested for visual acuity, farsightedness, ability to use two eyes together, and for symptoms of eye problems.
- There are approximately three million children residing in the state of Michigan. Over one million of these children will need eye care by the time they reach high school graduation age. About 10,000 of these children are entering school each year with inadequate vision.
- Children usually do not know that they see differently. Early identification of an eye problem is important. Conditions like amblyopia, or lazy eye, can be prevented if detected and treated during pre-school years.

Back to School Month

RESOURCES:

Washtenaw County Public Health

<http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>

Michigan Department of Community Health

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program

http://michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_21429-55522--00.html

Michigan Department of Community Health

Vision screening

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_4912-12634--00.html

National Eye Institute.

Eye health organizations list

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/resourceAlpha.asp>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Developmental Disabilities, Vision Impairment

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/ddvi.htm>



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Vision Loss

Vision loss means that a person's eyesight cannot be corrected to a "normal" level, making it hard or impossible to do daily tasks without eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other assistance. Vision loss can vary greatly among children and can be caused by many things. Vision loss can be caused by damage to the eye itself, by the eye being shaped incorrectly, or even by a problem in the brain. Babies can be born unable to see, and vision loss can occur anytime during a person's life.

When should my child be checked?

Your child should be checked for vision problems by an eye doctor (an ophthalmologist), pediatrician, or other trained specialist at:

- Newborn to 3 months
- Six months to 1 year
- About 3 years
- About 5 years

Having your child's vision checked is especially important if someone in your family has had vision problems.

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Free vision screening is provided to all Washtenaw County children under the age of 21 (age 26 for special education students). Screening is done in the schools (public, private, charter, and preschool) and at Washtenaw County Public by appointment.

Vision Screenings

Each child is tested for: visual acuity, farsightedness, ability to use two eyes together, and symptoms of eye problems. Vision Screenings are conducted in:

- Preschool
- Kindergarten
- Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
- Drivers education classes
- When students are new to Michigan
- Special education classrooms during alternating years

Parents who wish to bring their child to the Washtenaw County Public Health Department for hearing and vision screening should call the Health Department at **(734) 544-6786** to schedule an appointment for one of these dates:

- September 5, 2007
- October 26, 2007
- November 30, 2007
- January 11, 2008
- February 22, 2008
- March 10, 2008
- April 11, 2008
- May 16, 2008