

Vision Screening in Schools

This year, a new vision screening program will be offered in some schools for senior kindergarten students.

What is a vision screening?

A vision screening is a series of short, non-invasive tests that can detect if a child has eye problems. It cannot diagnose a vision disorder, but it may indicate a need to consult an eye doctor for further evaluation.

Why is good vision health important?

Every year in Ontario, 15,000 children have trouble learning to read just because they need glasses. Children need healthy eyes for their safety and to successfully learn, read, write, see the board, use a computer and participate in sports.



Why have a vision screening program in schools?

Children rarely complain that they cannot see well because they think their vision is normal. Parents, guardians, educators and teachers cannot always tell when a child has trouble seeing. In Leeds, Grenville and Lanark, only 17% of children aged four to five have had at least one complete eye exam from their health care provider, an optometrist or an ophthalmologist¹. If not identified early, some eye problems can permanently affect a child's vision.

What happens during the vision screening?

The school vision screening has three stations:

1. To measure the structure of the eyes
2. To evaluate the clarity and sharpness of vision
3. To assess depth perception

What will happen after the vision screening?

All children will receive a letter with the screening results to bring home to their parents/guardians.

Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit will support and assist families with finding an eye doctor for a complete eye exam.

A vision screening does not replace a comprehensive eye exam by an eye doctor (optometrist or ophthalmologist). Children who participate in the vision screening program could still have a vision problem. A valid OHIP card will cover the cost of an eye exam once every 12 months.

Make an appointment with an eye doctor today!

**For more information, call 1-800-660-5853
or visit www.healthunit.org**

