

## **Parent Information**

### **Pre-screening**

- 1. Invite letter**
- 2. Leaflet**

**DRAFT**

**1. Invite letter****LA logo/address****Date****Contact details****Dear parents/carer****Vision screening for children aged 4 to 5 years**

We would like to invite your child for vision screening. This will take place at xxx school on (give time/time period).

We enclose an information leaflet to explain the reasons for the vision screening, what it will consist of and what happens if your child is found to have reduced vision. Please take time to read this information.

If you would like your child to have the vision screening test, then you do not need to respond. If you **do not** wish your child to have the vision screening test please complete the slip below to withdraw from the screening.

.....

**Vision screening at age 4 to 5 years**

Complete and return **only** if you do not wish your child to receive the vision screening test.

Name of child ..... Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

School: .....

I **do not** wish my child to receive vision screening  (tick appropriate box)

My child already attends a hospital eye department and does not need to be seen

Signed (parent/carer) .....

Name in full (please print clearly in capital letters) .....

**Please return this reply slip to school as soon as possible**

## Vision screening for children aged 4 to 5 years

### Vision screening

We offer vision screening to children aged 4 to 5 to identify those with reduced vision or a lazy eye. The aim is to detect problems early so your child can get effective treatment.

Children identified by screening will be referred for a more detailed test, called a diagnostic test. This could be with a local optometrist (optician) or the hospital eye service. The diagnostic test will identify the cause of the reduced vision and recommend treatment. This will often include the use of glasses.

### Reduced vision or a lazy eye

A lazy eye is when one eye has poorer vision than the other. It is present in around 4% of children and is generally caused by the eyes focussing differently or a turn in the eye (squint). Reduced vision in one or both eyes may also be caused by a problem focussing.

### Screening test

Your child's vision will be assessed using a letter matching test. The test is designed to be fun and your child does **NOT** need to know their letters. It is important to assess each eye separately. To ensure the child cannot "peep" with the other eye, a pair of glasses with one eye blanked out is used or an eye patch is placed over one eye. Most children enjoy playing this game and there are no risks associated with the test.

You can choose whether you want them to have the vision test. We recommend screening to ensure early identification and treatment of reduced vision.

Vision develops from birth to around 7 or 8 years of age. Children rarely complain of having poor vision and it can easily go unnoticed, so the vision test at the age of 4 to 5 years is important.

This draft guidance produced by Public Health England is currently being consulted on

In most cases if detected early, reduced vision can be treated successfully. However, if left untreated, it may not be possible to improve a child's vision. This may have an impact on their future progress in school, ability to drive or career choices.

## **Consent**

Vision screening usually takes place in your child's school. If your child is not in school long term, we will make alternative arrangements.

Please only inform us if you do **NOT** wish your child to have the vision screen or if your child is already under the follow-up care of a hospital eye service. If you do not contact us within 2 weeks of receiving this letter we will assume you want your child to have the test.

## **Possible results**

Vision screening will identify if your child has reduced vision in one or both eyes. If your child does **NOT** pass you will be sent a letter confirming the results of the vision screening test and referring your child for further diagnostic tests. The letter will explain how to arrange this appointment.

You will also receive a letter if your child passes. No test is perfect and vision does change as we get older. If you are worried that your child is not seeing properly, you should arrange to see your GP or optician.