

Parent Information (Post-screening)

1. Letter to inform of fail / referral
2. Letter to inform of pass
3. Letter to inform of absence / not tested

DRAFT

1. Letter to inform of fail / referral

Information following vision screening

Date

Dear parents/carer

Your child(Insert name)..... had a vision screening test today in school.

Result

The vision screening result suggests that your child has reduced vision in one or both eyes. Further tests are required to confirm this. Reduced vision could be caused by:

- focussing errors due to a need for glasses (refractive error)
- a turn in one eye (strabismus)
- a problem with the structure of the eye – this is less common

You might not have noticed your child has a problem with their vision. This is common as young children rarely complain of having reduced vision. If only one eye is affected the other eye can compensate and the child adapts.

Next steps

Your child does not need any urgent care. It is however important to follow the instructions in this letter and take your child for a follow-up appointment.

When your child attends for further diagnostic tests, this may be with:

- an orthoptist (tests children's vision and how the eyes are used together)
- an optometrist (tests for glasses)
- an ophthalmologist (eye doctor)

The further diagnostic testing may require eye drops to be used to make the pupils big and stop the eyes from focusing during the test. The drops are used routinely in young children but do blur the vision for approximately one day, during which time the eyes will also be sensitive to bright light.

Glasses

The diagnostic tests will confirm if your child needs glasses. Not all children require glasses and other treatments such as wearing an eye patch or using eye drops may be required. The results will be explained to you on the day of the tests.

If your child does require glasses, you will be given a prescription on the day and asked to have the glasses made up at your local optometrist (optician). Eye tests are free for all children and your child will be entitled to a voucher to pay towards the cost of the glasses. Most optometrists will be able to offer glasses that are covered by the voucher. If you choose a designer frame you may have to pay a contribution towards the cost.

Follow-up treatment

It is important to continue with any treatment (glasses or patching) during the period of visual development. This may be over a period of months or years. If you stop treatment during this time, your child's vision might become worse again.

More information

You will be able to discuss your concerns with the eye care professional when you attend for your child's appointment. If you have any questions before the appointment, please contact the school nurse (or vision screening service if not school nurse delivered – change to suit local provision).

For further information, see the NHS Choices website:

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/opticians/Pages/childrens-eyes.aspx>

DRAFT

2. Letter to inform of pass at vision screening test

Date

Dear parents/carer

Information following vision screening

Test completed on: *insert date*

Test completed at: *insert school/venue*

Vision Screening Outcome: Satisfactory vision in both eyes

Result

The vision screening result found that your child achieved the expected level of vision in each eye for their age.

This result does not rule out future eye problems. If you have any concerns about your child's eyes or eyesight, we suggest you seek advice from your GP or local optometrist (optician).

More information

Please contact *(insert name, eg the school nurse /email/ phone no)* to discuss this result.

For further information, see the NHS Choices website:

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/opticians/Pages/childrens-eyes.aspx>

3. Letter to inform of no testing due to absence for vision screening

Dear parents/carer

Information about vision screening

Outcome: Vision screening not completed

Vision screening was offered to your child. However, they were not in school on the 2 dates this was available. They have therefore **not** received the eye test.

Next steps

Please arrange for your child to have a vision test at your local optometrist (optician).

We recommended testing to ensure early identification and treatment of reduced vision. In most cases, we can treat reduced vision successfully if detected early. 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.

More information

For further information, see the NHS Choices website:

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSServices/opticians/Pages/childrens-eyes.aspx>