

TRAINING VISION SCREENER CURRICULUM

Section II: Vision Screening

Learning Objectives

- Understand your screening situation and population.
- Be able to plan and set up a vision screening program site.
- Know the roles and responsibilities involved in vision screening.

Your Vision Screening Program

Goal:

To quickly, efficiently and reliably distinguish those children who need further evaluation from those children that probably are not having vision problems significant enough to cause academic delays.

What is your setting?

- School-based/educational screening setting
- Community-based screening setting

Who is your population?

- What are the ages of the children?
- Are there any developmental concerns or other considerations?
- Is the group challenging to screen?

Educational Setting Recommendations

- Children ages 9 and younger (preschool, kindergarten, grades 1, 2, 3 and 4)
- All children referred previous year
- All new students
- Students repeating a grade
- Students receiving exceptional education services
- Students referred by parent, grandparent, primary caregiver, legal guardian, teacher or other professional

Screening Recommendations

Children ages 9 and younger (Preschool, kindergarten, first, second, third and fourth grades) <i>Should be conducted annually</i>	Children ages 10 and older (Fifth grade and up) <i>Should be conducted every other year</i>
Distance visual acuity	Distance visual acuity
Stereoacuity	Near visual acuity (optional)
Color deficiency-one time	

Types of Annual Screenings for Pre-K to 4th Grade

- Distance Visual Acuity
- Stereoacuity
- Color Deficiency –one time

Biannual Screening Recommendations in Educational Settings

- Every other year: Children ages 10 and older
(5th grade and above)
- Distance visual acuity
- Near Visual acuity (optional)

Planning and Preparation for Screening

- Planning meeting
- Location/space considerations
- Informing parents/Legal Considerations
- Preparing children
- Coordination
- Personnel/volunteers
- Infection control considerations
- Care of vision materials and equipment



Infection Control

- Wash hands with soap and water before beginning
- Disinfect reusable eye occluders with anti-microbial agent or alcohol wipe before start of screening and after each child.
- Children with red eyes or draining should NOT be screened but referred to their primary care physician.
- Keep a quick kit handy for infection control emergencies.



Quick Kit

- Several pairs of vinyl gloves
- Paper towels
- Ziploc bags
- Wipes, towelettes, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Small bottle of bleach and water solution or approved school district disinfectant.

Keep this solution out of children's reach!



Additional Infection Control Measures

- Protect others from coming into contact with bodily fluids
Get assistance in caring for the child's needs.
- Use gloves if you anticipate coming into contact with bodily fluids. *"If it's wet and it's not yours, don't touch it!"*
- Use proper care if broken glass is present.
- Clean and disinfect contaminated areas with paper towels and disinfectant solution.
- Use proper disposal of contaminated items (gloves, glass, sharp objects) into a plastic sealed bag.
- Discard the plastic bag with contaminated items.
- Wash your hands.

Screening Tools and Equipment



Putting it all together

- Personnel roles and responsibilities
- Vision Screening Site
- Resources for referrals

Personnel: Roles and Responsibilities

- Certified vision screener
- Group management volunteer
- Chart attendant or pointer/recorder



Volunteer Training

- Provide Clear Instructions
- Introduction to screening process
- Orientation to screening tools
- Comprehension of screening procedures
- Record keeping/Reporting
- Confidentiality



The Vision Screening Site

- Decide on the number of stations
- Set up tables and chairs
- Design traffic flow
- Designate waiting areas
- Obtain extension cords, tape measure, masking tape, etc.
- Paperwork and pens
- Quick Kit



Screening Environment

- Quiet area free from distractions, low traffic
- Room at least 25 feet long for 20 foot eye chart
- Room at least 15 feet long for 10 foot eye chart
- Uncluttered, non patterned wall for eye charts
- Proper lighting, no shadows or glares



Setting up for Distance Vision screening

- Select a wall that ensures an unobstructed view
- Place chart away from windows to prevent glare
- Mark the height from the floor for the chart-about 42" for LEA symbols and 48" for Sloan Chart
- Mark 10 feet or 20 feet on the floor with masking tape depending on which chart you are using
- Use "footprint template" and tape to floor with back of the heel on the 10 or 20 ft. mark.



Setting up for Distance Vision Screening

- Place chair and pointer near chart for proctor.
- Place a table, occluders and symbols/cards near testing line where child will sit/stand.
- Place a table, chair and record forms at recorder's station.
- Reference the passing lines on the acuity charts.



Setting up for Near Vision Screening

- Use table or chairs for screening
- Use specified distance in near vision tools
- Use occluder as specified



Setting up for Stereoacuity Screening

- Table and two chairs are needed
- Proper lighting
- Place screening tool, polarized glasses and recording materials on table



Setting up for Color Vision Screening

- Table no more than 3 feet wide
- 2 chairs
- Screening Tool
- Cotton swabs (for pointing)



Summary

- Be flexible with your screening setup
- *Always adjust your environment and not your equipment!*


