

Children's Vision Screening and Eye Health

Getting your child's free NHS eye test is important because early detection of vision problems means treatment can start sooner, leading to better outcomes and preventing long-term issues such as reduced or permanent loss of vision.



Commissioned by

Regular eye tests are essential as children often do not realise they have a problem, and unidentified vision issues can affect their learning, development, and everyday activities.

Children aged 4–5 years are offered a vision screening check at school by our trained team. If the screening suggests your child may have reduced vision, we will contact you, recommending a referral to a hospital specialist or local optician for an NHS eye test.

If you have already been contacted but have not yet attended, please arrange this as soon as possible. Even if your child did not need a referral, it's important to remember that vision can change as children grow.

Early assessment and treatment can make a big difference to your child's vision and development. Even if your child did not need a referral, it is important to remember that vision can change as children grow.

Children's eyes are still developing until around 7–8 years of age, and problems are not always obvious. Eye tests are free for all children under 16, and for those under 19 in full-time education. Glasses are also free or subsidised if needed.

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