

# HEARING & VISION SCREENING



## What Parents Should Know



### What is the Hearing & Vision Screening Program?

Michigan law (The Public Health Code 368 of 1978) requires Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) to provide no cost hearing and vision screenings to preschool and school-age children.

Screenings occur in most Oakland County public, private, and charter schools, preschools and at Health Division offices. The program is done in three steps over the course of a child's school years:

1. Screenings before kindergarten entry
2. Screenings in select grades up to 9th grade.
3. As needed, medical referrals for children not passing the screening

OCHD Public Health Technicians help identify potential concerns related to a child's ear or eye health. They are not doctors and do not diagnose conditions or prescribe treatment. Technicians complete a Michigan Department of Community Health & Human Services Technician Training Course and receive continuous training.

Hearing and Vision Screening Requirements	Hearing 	Vision 
Pre-school	X	X
Kindergarten Entry	X	X
Kindergarten	X	
1st Grade		X
2nd Grade	X	
3rd Grade		X
4th Grade	X	
5th Grade		X
7th Grade		X
9th Grade		X

### Why screen children's hearing and vision?

Hearing and vision difficulties can affect school performance, speech and language skills, self-esteem and social development. Regular hearing and vision screenings identify any problems and ensure they are caught early. Screenings are safe and help children get prompt medical care to reduce disease, physical damage to ear/eye and permanent loss of sight or hearing. They also help parents and teachers make accommodations to help children succeed.

## How are hearing and vision screenings performed?

**Vision:** An age appropriate vision screening instrument screens for eye muscle imbalance and clearness of vision. Children with glasses are screened with glasses/contacts on so they are not referred for further medical evaluation unnecessarily.

**Hearing:** A pure tone audiometer is used. Tones are presented through headphones.

## Will I be notified if a problem is found during my child's screening?

Yes, you will be notified if your child does not pass the screening, is absent, or the technician is unable to screen your child. A referral letter to follow-up with the appropriate doctor will also be provided. State of Michigan law requires OCHD to request follow-up documentation that a child who has received this referral receives further evaluation by a physician. If a child does not pass a hearing screening, they may be referred to their physician or invited to an OCHD sponsored Otology Clinic. Otology clinics are offered at community sites throughout Oakland County and allow the child to be evaluated by an ENT (ear, nose and throat) physician and audiologist at no charge for further recommendations.

## How will I know when my child is screened in school?

Schools are responsible for communicating to parents about when screenings are scheduled. All children are screened unless the school office is notified otherwise by a parent/guardian. Notify the school if your child has an implanted medical device such as a shunt, pacemaker, vagus nerve stimulators for preventing seizures, Baclofen pumps for spinal cord injuries, etc. Children with implanted medical devices will not be screened for hearing because they may be at risk for unintended changes in device settings. Children with cochlear implants also are not screened in school. If your child has a medically implanted device and you would like a hearing screening, contact your physician for a referral to an audiologist.



## Does my child need hearing or vision screening for Kindergarten Entry?

Hearing and Vision screening is required by State of Michigan law for kindergarten entry.

## What are signs of hearing or vision problems in a child?

### Hearing

- History of ear infections or drainage
- Wants the television or radio louder
- Misunderstands directions or asks to have things repeated
- Complaints of headaches and/or dizziness
- Chronic congestion, allergies or mouth breathing

### Vision

- Squints, closes one eye, or tilts head to see
- Droopy eyelids
- Eye crosses or wanders even if only when child is ill or tired
- Holds objects close to the eyes
- Redness, frequent tearing, pain, and/or itching in the eyes

If you notice any of the above signs in your child, contact your health care provider or Oakland County Health Division.



## Where can I get more information?

Call: (248) 424-7070

Email: [HearingVision@oakgov.com](mailto:HearingVision@oakgov.com)

Visit: [OakGov.com/Health](https://OakGov.com/Health)  
or [Michigan.Gov/mdhhs](https://Michigan.Gov/mdhhs)



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hearing screening



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