



Vision and Hearing Screening Programs

Vision Screening Recommendations – Kindergarten Students

Research by the Wisconsin Optometric Association states, “Eighty percent of all learning during a child’s first twelve years is obtained through vision.” Routine vision screening is a part of the five-year-old well check. This vision screening checks how well your child can see a chart from twenty feet away. This type of vision screening identifies about thirty percent of children who have vision problems.

The state of Wisconsin passed the Children’s’ Vision Initiative Law – Chapter 118.135 Wisconsin State Statutes in 2002. The law **recommends** that parents of kindergarten students have their child’s vision checked by a licensed optometrist.

A copy of the Kindergarten VISION Examination Form is included. Take the form with you to your child’s eye exam. Ask your eye doctor to complete the form. Return the completed form to your child’s school. Copies of the form are available at your child’s elementary school.

The Wisconsin Optometric Association’s participating physicians will provide free eye examinations to students if parents cannot afford the cost of the eye exam. **VISION USA** is a Wisconsin State Project that offers basic eye examinations to children under the age of 18 for employed low-income families without eye care health insurance coverage. Applications are available at Marathon County Public Health Department (715-261-1900). You will be given the names of local physicians that will check your child’s vision after the completed application is approved. Parents need to schedule the appointment with one of those eye doctors.

State law recommends, but does not require this eye examination for kindergarten entrance.

District Sponsored Hearing and Vision Screening Programs

The district provides basic vision and hearing screening for all elementary students grades K – 5. Trained volunteers conduct the vision and hearing screening. Dates for the hearing and vision screening are listed in the school newsletters and school calendar.

This program is only a screening. It is not designed to replace the annual vision or kindergarten exams by eye care professional. Parents are notified if their child fails the screening and needs further evaluation by their primary care physician, eye care professional or audiologist.

Participation in the screening is *optional*. If you do not want your child’s hearing and vision screened, notify the health aide at the school. *If your child wears glasses, please make sure the glasses are at school for the vision screening. Students who wear hearing aides will not have their hearing screened at school.*

Contact Roxie Kenitzer, RN-BSN at 715-241-9700 ext. 2309, with questions or concerns.