



PRESCHOOL VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

A NECESSARY PART OF A CHILD'S
PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE!
A MUST FOR EVERY CHILD!

THIS PAMPHLET IS PROVIDED
BY
STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DIVISION OF HEALTH PROMOTION & SCREENING
VISION AND HEARING SECTION



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10/1981 - 85M

THOSE "CRITICAL YEARS"

Young children do not really know how they are meant to see or hear, and, as a consequence, may not complain about faulty vision or hearing. With no warning from the child, parents must depend upon regular examinations to be certain that no problem exists or is developing.

Since such a large portion of a child's learning takes place even before he enters school, it is extremely important that he has the best possible vision and hearing throughout these formative years.

Early childhood vision and hearing screening will help prevent thousands of cases of unnecessary loss of sight or hearing and needless social, emotional, and educational maladjustments.

Screening is not a substitute for regular examinations by eye and ear doctors. Screening is a supportive service given by trained vision and hearing technicians.

YOUR CHILD'S VISION

LIMITED VISION IN BOTH EYES. The eyes go through their greatest development and are highly vulnerable up to the age of six. During this time the child is also having his greatest development in learning about the world around him. Because most of a person's education is through the eyes, a child with limited vision does not have as wide an experience as a child with normal vision. Usually he is never quite able to compensate for those last learning experiences.

CROSSED EYES. Far too many people still mistakenly think that children will outgrow crossed eyes. They do not realize the necessity for treatment at a very early age. Serious visual impairment or even blindness can sometimes be prevented

by a preschool eye examination and subsequent treatment if it is needed.

AMBLYOPIA EX-ANOPSIA . . . often called lazy eye blindness, is a condition resulting from lack of use of one eye in the early years of life and it interferes with the attainment of normal vision development in the affected eye. After the age of six, this condition is very difficult to correct and any treatment is long, costly, and frequently unproductive.

YOUR CHILD'S HEARING

National and State surveys show that approximately 5% of school children may be found in screening to have a hearing loss sufficient to warrant further study or treatment. About half of these children, or roughly 1½% to 3% of the total school population, may actually have a hearing defect severe enough to require special medical care and educational help.



Among very young children the problem of hearing loss is compounded by the fact that this handicap makes it extremely difficult for the child to learn. Thus, early discovery of hearing loss is particularly important among infants and preschool children because training is more effective when begun before a child reaches school age.

Eighty percent of all permanent hearing damage and the resultant school failure of children can actually be prevented by early detection and prompt attention.

VISION SCREENING READINESS GAME
(PLEASE NOTE DIRECTIONS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)

O

H

T

V

TO PARENTS:

The vision screening of your child is not difficult, however, by playing or practicing this game the screening will go much faster.

Cut or tear off the H – O – T – V strip at bottom of page. Fold strip so that the child sees only one letter at a time.

Place the $\begin{matrix} O \\ H \quad T \\ V \end{matrix}$ picture in front of the child. Show one letter on the tear strip to the child and ask the child to point to the letter like this one on his picture. Show each letter in the same manner and ask the child to point to the letter. The letter need not be called by name. Play the game for five minutes the first time and repeat several times for shorter periods before the vision screening.

H

O

T

V