Distance Visual Acuity Screening with LEA SYMBOLS®/HOTV Flip Chart for 3 to 6 Years of Age.

Ages

3 to 6 years of age.

Purpose

To check the visual acuity of children who do not know the alphabet or have difficulty with the LEA SYMBOLS® or HOTV chart.

Description

Visual acuity is screened at a distance of 10-feet using the Massachusetts Visual Acuity Flip Chart with age-appropriate optotypes (symbols or letters) and a response card. The child can point to an optotype on the response card matching the one the screener is indicating on the flip chart. The child need not know the names of the optotypes.

Equipment

LEA SYMBOLS® or HOTV Massachusetts Flip Chart.
LEA SYMBOLS® /HOTV Response Key Card and LEA SYMBOLS®/HOTV Flash Cards
Occluder glasses for right and left eyes or other occlusion equipment.
Tables and chairs (optional).

Screener qualifications

Can be performed by screeners with recommended training.

Facilities

Room well-lighted, without glare, and free of distractions.

Procedure

1. The child must be standing or sitting at a table with the response card in front of them, eyes at a ten foot distance from the flip chart.
2. The child must be conditioned to match optotypes (symbols or letters) by pointing to the same optotype on the response card as is being pointed to on the chart.
3. Test the right eye first; occlude the left eye.
4. Start with the 10/25 page and proceed to the 10/20, 10/16, 10/12.5 and 10/10 page as long as the child is able to match one optotype on each page.
5. If the child misses, go to the preceding page and point to one optotype at a time. If the child matches 4 of them correctly, proceed to the next page.
6. To receive credit for a page, the child must correctly match any 4 out of 5 optotypes on that page.
7. The number recorded as the visual acuity is the last page that the child can correctly identify any 4 of 5 optotypes.
8. To screen the left eye, occlude the right eye and repeat the procedure.

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PASS
Must be able to identify any 4 out of 5 optotypes on the critical passing line or better.

Age 3 years
10/25 (20/50) or better in each eye without a 2-line difference between eyes in the PASS range.

Age 4 years
10/20 (20/40) or better in each without a 2-line difference between eyes in the PASS range.

Age 5 years
10/16 (20/32) or better in each eye without a 2-line difference between eyes in the PASS range.

Re-screen/REFER criteria
The majority of children who do not meet passing criteria will be referred.

Some children may need re-screening. Re-screening should be performed if a child was unable to follow instructions, was overly distracted during the screening or was unable to complete the initial screening. Re-screening should occur as soon as possible but in no case later than 6 months from the initial screening date.

For more information on re-screening criteria, go to the section on “Re-Screening Untestable Children” in the “Vision Screening Procedures for Infancy, Childhood and School Age Children” manual. Please note: children who resist having their eye covered during the screening phase should be suspected of having vision loss in the uncovered eye, rather than being uncooperative, and should be referred.

REFER
Age 3 years
10/32 (20/60) or worse in either eye or a 2-line difference between eyes in the PASS range.

Age 4 years
10/25 (20/50) or worse in either eye or a 2-line difference between eyes in the PASS range.

Age 5 years
10/20 (20/40) or worse in either eye or a 2-line difference between eyes in the PASS range.
Considerations for screening special populations:

The matching of the HOTV or LEA SYMBOLS® should be practiced before the screening. A practice sheet that may be duplicated is in the Addendum. For some children with special needs, it may be useful to reproduce the response card, cut and space them so that larger movements can be used when indicating the matching symbol.