

Distance Visual Acuity Screening - Sloan Letters

Ages

6 years and older.

Purpose

Screen for clarity of vision when looking in the distance; to detect myopia, amblyopia, astigmatism, and/or anisometropia.

Description

Visual acuity is checked using a standardized 10-foot Sloan Letters chart proportionally spaced (LogMAR).

Equipment

- Sloan Letters Chart (10 foot); positioned at the child's eye level.
- Measuring tool for marking a 10 foot distance between the vision chart and the child.
- Age appropriate occluders.

Screener Qualifications

Can be performed by screeners who have received the recommended training by the Minnesota Department of Health or equivalent. Refer to Assessment Tools on the [Vision Screening Forms, Tools and Materials webpage \(www.health.state.mn.us\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us).

Facilities

Room at least 12 feet long or greater, well-lit, and without glare or distractions.

Notes

- If a child requires assistance knowing which letter to identify, the screener should point briefly beneath the letter and quickly remove the pointer.
- Depending on the Sloan Letters chart used, the lines split into two or three columns toward the bottom half of the chart. Use the right column for screening the right eye and the left column for screening the left eye.
- To get credit for a line with 5 letters, the child must correctly identify 4 of 5 letters. To get credit for a line that has less than 5 letters, the child must correctly identify each letter on that line.

Procedure

1. Explain the screening process to the child.
2. Position the child with their eyes at a 10 foot distance from the chart (foot arches should be positioned on the 10 foot line if standing; the child's eyes should be positioned on the 10 foot line if sitting).
3. If the child wears corrective lenses or contacts, these should be clean and worn during the screening procedure. Position the occluder over the eyeglasses.
4. Screen the **RIGHT** eye first, with the **LEFT** eye occluded.
 - Start from the top line, ask the child to identify the first letter on the RIGHT side of the chart moving down the lines until a letter is missed.
 - Return to the line above the missed letter and ask the child to identify each letter on that line, reading left to right.
 - If the child correctly identifies 4 of the 5 letters on the line, move down to the next line and ask the child to identify the letters.
 - Continue to move down the lines on the right side of the chart until the child is unable to identify 4 out of 5 letters on a line.
5. To screen the **LEFT** eye, occlude the **RIGHT** eye.
 - Repeat the procedure using the LEFT side of the chart.
6. Record the visual acuity for each eye as 10/XX (20/XX) for the lowest line the child was able to correctly identify 4 (or 5) out of 5 letters, or all the letters on a line that has less than 5 letters.

PASS

10/16 (20/32) or better in each eye without a difference of two lines or more between the eyes in the PASS range.

REFER

10/20 (20/40) or worse in either eye or a difference of two lines or more between the eyes in the PASS range.

Considerations for Screening Special Populations

If a child does not know the alphabet or is developmentally unable to perform the Sloan Letters test of visual acuity, then screen with the LEA SYMBOLS® or HOTV chart instead. If the child is still unable to perform the screening, refer to the [Rescreening Untestable Children \(www.health.state.mn.us\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us) for more information.

DISTANCE VISUAL ACUITY SCREENING - SLOAN LETTERS

Minnesota Department of Health
Child and Teen Checkups
651-201-3650
health.state.mn.us@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3650.