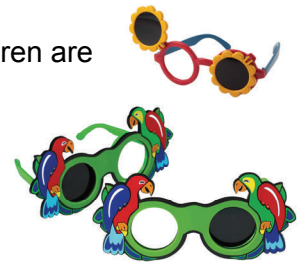


## 8 Tips for Screening the Vision of Reluctant Preschoolers

1. If you screen children with LEA Symbols, familiarize children with the symbols prior to vision screening day. Introduce the LEA Symbols 3-D Puzzle in circle time or for play at the manipulatives table.
2. Tell the young child you are going to play a game. Do not say, "I am going to *test* your eyes." This could frighten the child.
3. If you screen children with LEA Symbols, a key to success is permitted the children to give names of their choice to symbols.
4. Beware of giving young children responsibility for their own occlusion. Children are likely to peek, especially if they are looking at an eye chart with an eye that has amblyopia or blurred vision. Instead, try special occluder glasses. The occluder glasses will also increase testability in children who do not want to participate in vision screening.
5. If a child strongly resists occluding one eye and does NOT resist occluding the other eye, the first eye may be preferred for vision and the second eye *may* have amblyopia. Try screening first with the second eye and then return to the first eye. If the child still resists, refer for a comprehensive, confirmatory eye exam.
6. If a child is not vocally identifying the optotypes on your eye chart and your eye chart includes response panels and individual flash cards, first give the child the response panel and ask the child to play a matching game by pointing to the symbol on the response panel that matches the symbol on your chart. Another option is to place the individual flash cards on the floor in front of the child and ask the child to step on the symbol that matches the symbol on your eye chart.
7. If you must direct a child's attention to optotypes, use your finger or a pen to point above or below each symbol, but not directly on the symbol. Refrain from displaying one optotype at a time. Both can interfere with screening and result in an overestimation or underestimation of visual acuity.
8. If a child is untestable, rescreen or refer the child for a comprehensive, confirmatory eye exam. Recent research from the Vision in Preschoolers Study suggests that untestable children are more likely to have vision disorders than children who passed vision screening. If you rescreen, the American Academy of Pediatrics suggests 4 to 6 mo. for children aged 3 and 1 mo. for children aged 4 and older.



Maguire, M. G. (2007). Children unable to perform screening tests in vision in preschoolers study: Proportion with ocular conditions and impact on measures of test accuracy. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*, (48)1, 83-87.

For questions about preschool vision screening or the materials and methods you use, call P. Kay Nottingham Chaplin, EdD, Director, Early Vision Screening Initiatives, Good-Lite, at 304-216-2035 or e-mail at [kay@good-lite.com](mailto:kay@good-lite.com)

Happy Screening!