

Why should my child's vision and hearing be screened?

Healthy vision and hearing is essential for your child's learning, growth and development. Your child's vision and hearing continues to develop and may change throughout childhood. It is important to detect any problems early through a vision and hearing screen.

How is vision and hearing screened?

Audiometry (hearing screen)



An audiometer with headphones presents a range of sounds. Hearing levels are determined by the responses given by the child during screening.

Tympanometry (screening for glue ear)

A child is only screened for this if a pass result is not achieved for audiometry.

Tympanometry measures the pressure in the child's middle ear. This will identify glue ear, grommets or perforation/wax.

Vision (distance vision screen only)



This determines how well your child is able to see at a distance by using either a letter matching game or reading an eye chart.

When are children screened?

Four years: Vision and hearing (as one part of the B4 School Check).

New entrant: As above if not screened at four years.

School Year seven: Distance vision only.

Where can your child be screened?

Your child can be screened at their pre-school, school or at a free clinic. Clinics are by appointment, please contact your local Vision Hearing Team to arrange an appointment.

Vision hearing screening is provided by qualified Vision Hearing Technicians (VHTs).

NOTE: Vision and hearing screening tests are not a full assessment of your child.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's ears or eyes, please consult your doctor, an optometrist or a Vision Hearing Technician.

Ensuring children can hear and see well is critical to their ongoing development.

Qualified Vision Hearing Technicians provide a free service as part of the national B4 School Check screening programme.

This has two parts:

1. Vision Hearing Screen at your child's pre-school or school.
2. The B4 School Nurse visit to complete the Well Child portion of the 4 year old check.

You can contact your local Vision Hearing Team and B4 School Nurse for an appointment as soon as your child turns four years of age.

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

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How well can your child see and hear?

Vision and Hearing Screening

