

Did you know?

The Hearing and Vision Screening Programs, managed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and implemented by 45 state-wide county health departments, have been in place for more than sixty years!

In Michigan, over 1 million children are screened each year for hearing and vision problems. Over 79,000 children are referred for further evaluation.

The Michigan Hearing and Vision Screening Programs have long been recognized as ideal models for other states to follow. Both programs are carefully standardized so that each child screened, regardless of where they reside, receives consistent screening, referral, and follow-up services.

In Livingston County, the Health Department conducts hearing and vision screening according to the following schedule. Please call for further information.

Hearing

Grades Jr K, K, 2 & 4

Vision

Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9

Hearing and Vision

Head Start

Office Testing - 3 years old up to age 21

Livingston County Health Department

Dianne McCormick, Health Officer
Elaine Brown, Deputy Health Officer/PPHS Director
Donald Lawrenchuk, Medical Director
Michelle Steele Hearing & Vision Coordinator
Janet Slavin, Hearing & Vision Technician
Jackie Marks, Hearing & Vision Technician
Liz Stamm, Hearing & Vision Technician
Autumn Palermo Hearing Technician

Call (517) 546-9850 to schedule an appointment, free of charge.

Hearing and Vision Screening

What Schools and Parents Need to Know about Michigan's Hearing & Vision Screening Programs



LIVINGSTON COUNTY
Health Department

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Michigan's Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978) requires local health departments, with the help of the state, to conduct free and periodic hearing and vision screening services to preschool and school-age children.

- HEARING -

Finding hearing problems is very important to a child's development of speech and progress in school. Here are some facts about hearing screening services:

Michigan law requires *preschool* children be screened for hearing at least once during ages 3-5, and that *school-age* children be screened in grades K, 2, and 4.

Hearing technicians receive two weeks of training in both preschool and school-age settings.

Hearing technicians participate in the Technician Observation Program (TOP) which is designed to promote hearing screening quality assurance through technician observation and assessment.

About 90% of children who receive their first screening are found to have normal hearing . . . which is great! The other 10% will receive a follow-up screening or audiogram (a graphic display of a child's hearing levels).

About 50% of those children receiving a second screening are found to need medical attention for their suspected hearing loss.

Immediate treatment, upon diagnosis by a doctor, increases the chance of correcting short-term problems and preventing them from becoming permanent problems.

Each child with hearing problems will receive continued services yearly until two normal hearing tests are obtained or they are no longer in elementary school.

- VISION -

Children do not know how well they should see. Eyes grow as children grow and may develop problems at any stage of growth. These are some facts about vision screening services:

Michigan law requires *preschool* children be screened prior to entering kindergarten, and that vision screening of *school-age* children take place in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 or grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and driver training.

Vision technicians receive one week of training in both preschool and school-age settings.

Vision technicians participate in the Technician Assessment Program (TAP) which is designed to promote vision screening quality assurance through technician observation and assessment.

Impaired vision is one of the most common health problems affecting children, and between 20-25% of children in Michigan have a visual defect.

Amblyopia (lazy eye), which is the leading cause of partial permanent vision loss in the United States and affects approximately 2 or 3 out of 100 children, can be prevented if treated early. Crossed eyes or unequal vision between the two eyes are the most common causes. Vision technicians are trained to screen children for lazy eye.

Visual acuity, or clearness of vision, has proved to be the best way to determine the possible presence of a visual problem. Vision technicians are able to administer Visual Acuity/Two-Line Difference Tests to preschool and school-age children.

Early identification of hearing and vision problems increases each child's chance for academic and social success.