Eye Tests for Children with special needs

Has your child had an eye test in the last year?
Here are some things you may not know…

How will you test my child’s sight? They can’t speak!

You don’t need to be able to read or even talk to have an eye test – we can use special picture tests and lights to find out if your child needs glasses.

We have enough to think about - why worry about an eye test?

Children with special needs are 28 times more likely to have a vision problem than other children. Improving vision improves communication and learning.

Without glasses vs. With glasses

Think: feeding vision, not reading vision. Wearing glasses may help your child to see to do lots of other things too.

My child can’t read - why do they need glasses?

It can take a long time for any child to get used to glasses – but with time most children adapt and teachers notice improvement in attention and learning.

My child won’t let me put things on his face – he won’t get on at all with glasses
When booking an appointment at the opticians don’t forget

1. Ask if your child can visit before the appointment so it isn’t all new on the day

2. Ask if the optician can use picture tests, not letter tests

3. Tell the optician how your child communicates

4. Ask the optician to tell you what they are going to do before they do it so you can prepare

5. Take your child’s hearing aids, if they wear them, so you can get glasses which fit

6. It takes months for children to get used to glasses, don’t give up!

7. Ask your GP or paediatrician to refer you to the local eye department if the optometrist cannot complete an assessment.

For information and advice please to www.vision2020uk.org.uk or www.seeability.org