

TEACHER GUIDE: HELPING FAMILIES TAKE THE NEXT STEP AFTER A VISION SCREENING REFERRAL



Start with a Question

Begin the conversation by asking the parent or guardian:

“How do you feel your child’s eyesight is doing?”

You can also ask:

- Have you noticed your child having any difficulty seeing?
- Does your child ever complain about headaches or difficulty seeing clearly?
- Have you noticed your child squinting, rubbing their eyes, or sitting close to things?



Explain the School Vision Screening

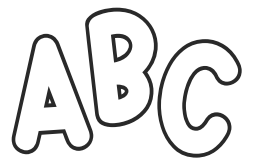
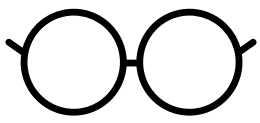
You can explain:

“Your child recently participated in a vision screening at school. School vision screenings are used to identify children who may have a possible vision problem that needs a closer look.”

“A vision screening is not the same as a dilated eye exam. If a child does not pass the vision screening at school, we recommend that they receive a dilated eye exam with an eye doctor to check their eyes fully and determine if they need glasses or other treatment.”

Remember

A vision screening is not an eye exam. A school vision screening helps identify children who may need additional evaluation by an eye doctor.



Explain Why Follow-Up with an Eye Exam is Important

Vision problems are common in children. 1 in 17 preschool-aged children and about 1 in 4 school-aged children have a vision problem.

Children do not always know that they have a vision concern or realize that the way they see is different from others. Some children may adapt or compensate for blurry or unclear vision and may not complain or show obvious signs that they are having difficulty seeing.

That is why following up with an eye doctor is important, even when a child does not complain about their vision or appear to have difficulty seeing.

If Parents Have Questions & Available Support

You can share that the child did not pass the vision screening and encourage the parent or guardian to make an appointment with an eye doctor.

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin has resources available to help families access follow-up vision care. If a parent or guardian has questions about available resources or assistance with accessing an eye exam, please refer them to the school nurse or Prevent Blindness Wisconsin.

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin

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