



VISION SCREENING IN CHILDREN AGES 1 TO 5 YEARS: CLINICAL SUMMARY OF U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

Population	Children ages 3 to 5 years	Children younger than 3 years of age
Recommendation	Provide vision screening Grade: B	No recommendation Grade: I (Insufficient Evidence)

Screening tests	<p>Various screening tests are used in primary care to identify visual impairment in children, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual acuity test • Stereoacuity test • Cover-uncover test • Hirschberg light reflex test • Autorefraction • Photoscreening
Timing of screening	No evidence was found regarding appropriate screening intervals.
Interventions	Primary treatment for amblyopia includes the use of corrective lenses, patching, or atropine therapy of the non-affected eye. Treatment may also consist of a combination of interventions.
Balance of harms and benefits	<p>There is adequate evidence that early treatment of amblyopia in children ages 3 to 5 years leads to improved visual outcomes. There is limited evidence on harms of screening, including psychosocial effects, in children ages 3 years and older.</p> <p>There is inadequate evidence that early treatment of amblyopia in children younger than 3 years of age leads to improved visual outcomes.</p>
Suggestions for Practice Regarding the I Statement	<p>In deciding whether to refer children younger than 3 years of age for screening, clinicians should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential preventable burden:</i> screening later in the preschool years seems to be as effective as screening earlier • <i>Costs:</i> initial high costs associated with autorefractors and photoscreeners • <i>Current practice:</i> typical vision screening includes assessment of visual acuity, strabismus, and stereoacuity; children with positive findings should be referred for a comprehensive ophthalmologist exam

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making these recommendations, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents please go to www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org.