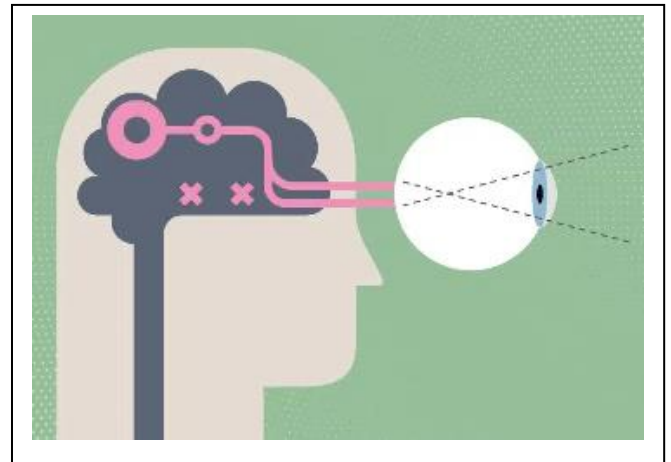


Your Child's Vision

Vision in children is a key part of their development and early detection of visual problems is important for their learning and general well-being.

The visual system continues to develop from birth and reaches maturity by approximately 8 years of age.

The majority of identified visual problems are treatable and the earlier these are identified the better the visual outcome is.



Vision screening allows the detection of reduced vision in one or both eyes at an age when treatment has the potential to improve vision.

The target condition is [Amblyopia](#), where the vision in one or both eyes doesn't develop properly. It is estimated that 1 in 50 children will develop this condition, but often younger children are unaware there is anything wrong with their vision, as they have grown up with and become used to it.



Amblyopia can be treated successfully in younger children but if undetected can result in permanent lifelong reduced vision.

The NHS recommends vision screening at age 4 to 5 years. This allows time for treatment prior to visual maturity.

Primary school vision screening is not offered in Northamptonshire, as it is not a mandatory NHS service. The Orthoptic society is campaigning for this. If you wish to read more about this campaign details are below

[Vision screening campaign - BIOS](#)

We recommend your child attends any local optician for a routine eye test during their reception academic year. This is recommended even if you do not have any concerns regarding their eyesight

The eye test is FREE.

The optician will assess your child for the need for glasses and will exam the health of the eyes. A management plan will be decided based on these findings. Should an onwards referral to an NHS setting be required the optician will do so.

Additional Resources

[Home - BIOS](#)

[Eye tests for children - NHS](#)

[Child vision screening information for parents - GOV.UK](#)