



Hearing and Vision Screening

Children often do not realize when they cannot see or hear adequately. All children should have a complete hearing and vision during the preschool years and periodically throughout school life. That's where Berrien County Health Department Hearing and Vision Screening program comes in! Following are some frequently asked questions about hearing and vision screening.

My children had their eyes and ears checked at school. Who did it and why?



Michigan's Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978) requires your local health department to

conduct free hearing and vision screening services to preschool and school-age children. The Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) has 3 technicians who screen hearing and vision in all the public and parochial schools in Berrien County. Kindergarten students have their hearing screened, 1st & 3rd graders have hearing and vision screened and 5th, 7th, & 9th graders have only their vision screened.

How do I know if my child passed?

No news is good news. If your child is referred to a doctor, you

will be contacted my mail, telephone or both.

If your child is referred on hearing you will receive a copy of the audiogram (hearing test) and a letter inviting you to bring your child to a free clinic (Otology Clinic) at the health department. At the clinic your child will be examined by an ENT (ear specialist). They may also see an Audiologist to have their hearing rechecked. Or you can take your child to your own doctor at your expense. We will send you a postcard to be filled out and returned after the exam.

If your child is referred on vision you will receive a yellow postcard to take with to the eye doctor. We ask that you take your child to an eye doctor of your choice at your expense. If you do not have insurance to help out with this the health department has information on ways that might help with the cost. If you have Medicaid we have a list of doctors.

The school said my child has to have his/her eyes and ears checked before kindergarten.

Michigan's Public Health Code requires all children to have their hearing and vision screened before entering kindergarten. This needs to be done at least once after the age of 3 and prior to entering kindergarten. Some pediatricians offer this service at the time of your

child's routine physical. You must provide documentation of screening to your child's school. BCHD offers free hearing and vision screening for preschool and kindergarten entrance.

What if I don't take my child to an eye doctor or have their ears checked being asked to?

The BCHD technicians are responsible for following up on their school referrals. You may receive a postcard and/or a telephone call or letter. Your responsibility is to have your child evaluated for vision or hearing, fill out the postage paid postcard and drop it into the mailbox.

My baby's eyes look crossed sometimes.

If your child's eyes cross or one eye wanders when your child is tired or ill they should go to an eye doctor. If your baby is under one year old there is a program for a free eye assessment by a qualified eye doctor. **InfantSee** is a public health program designed to ensure that eye and vision care become a part of infant wellness. Under this program, participating eye doctors have volunteered to provide a *free* one-time infant eye exam within the first year of life between the ages of 6 and 12 months. To learn more about **InfantSee**, call toll-free (888) 396-3937 or visit www.infantsee.org.

Berrien County Health

Department:
Preventing Disease,
Prolonging Life and
Protecting the
Health of the
Community.



Back to School!

Although August marks the end of summer break for students, there is still much fun to be had! The Berrien County Health Department wants you to stay safe as you enjoy the end of summer, and get prepared for school. This month we will provide you with information on immunizations, hearing and vision screening, head lice, healthy eating and physical activity, and depression/mental health. For more information about any of these topics, **please call the health department at 926-7121.**

FAST FACTS

Over 30% of children have a vision problem by high school graduation

Each year, over 650,000 Michigan children are screened for hearing and 23,000 referrals to doctors are made.

850,000 Michigan children are screened for vision with approximately 5-10% identified as having eye difficulties.



Since the early 1940's the Michigan Department of Community Health has worked collaboratively with local health departments and school systems to provide hearing and vision screening services to the children of Michigan.

Screening helps to identify hearing loss and vision difficulties as early as possible. Early identification of problems results in treatment and thus enhances children's ability to learn and succeed.

If you have any questions call:
Amy Harper 926-7121 ext.5293,
Dawn Mitchell 926-7121 ext.5292,
Kelly Clark 684-2800 ext. 6525.

Upcoming Hearing and Vision Screening Clinics

BCHD - 2106 S.M-139 Benton Harbor	Thursday, July 31	8:30-11:30 and 1-3:30
BCHD - 1205 Front St., Niles	Thursday, August 7	8:30-11:30 and 1-3:30
BCHD - 21 N. Elm St., Three Oaks	Thursday, August 21	8:30-11:30 and 1-3:30
BH Charter School, Riverview Dr., BH	Friday, August 22	8:30-11:30 and 1-3:30
BCHD - 2106 S.M-139 Benton Harbor	Monday, August 25	8:30-11:30 and 1-3:30
Orchards Mall, Community Room, BH	Tuesday, August 26	10:00-1:00 and 2-6pm
BCHD- 769 Pipestone, Benton Harbor	Thursday, August 28	8:30-11:30 and 1-3:30
BCHD- 769 Pipestone, Benton Harbor	Friday, September 5	8:30-11:30am
BCHD- 1205 Front St, Niles	Monday, October 6	8:30-11:30 am
BCHD- 769 Pipestone, Benton Harbor	Monday, November 10	8:30-11:30 am
BCHD- 769 Pipestone, Benton Harbor	Thursday, December 4	1:30-3:30 pm
BCHD- 769 Pipestone, Benton Harbor	Friday, January 9	8:30-11:30 am
BCHD- 1205 Front St, Niles	Thursday, February 26	1:30-3:30 pm



The Berrien County Health Department has five locations to serve you:

Benton Harbor		Niles	Three Oaks
769 Pipestone	M-139 Office	School Based	1205 N. Front St.
P.O. Box 706	2106 S. M-139	870 Colfax Ave	684-2800
926-7121	927-5623	925-4500	21 N. Elm 756-2008

Or visit us on the web at www.berriencohlthdept.org

This page is sponsored by the Berrien County Health Department

