KENT COUNTY Health Department

Vision and Hearing Screening Program
Phone: (616) 632-7047 / Fax: (616) 632-7017
Email: KCHDHV@kentcountymi.gov

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Hearing and vision screenings for children in Michigan are mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978) and are provided to all children at no charge through local public health departments.

All preschool children, ages 3-5 years; all children entering kindergarten; and all school-age children in grades K, 2, and 4 (hearing), and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 (vision) are screened by technicians trained by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Screenings are conducted in preschools, Head Start Centers, day cares, schools, and by appointment at the Kent County Health Department. Following the initial screening, a rescreen will be conducted, as needed, prior to referral.

The technician will contact you if your child(ren) does/do not pass the screening and require further attention. Our screening results are shared with the school and documented in the child's school record unless parents request otherwise. You must notify the school office immediately if you do not want your child to have either screening. The state requires that all refusal requests be submitted in writing annually.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Hearing
If your child has a programmable shunt or other implanted medical device, please inform the school office so the information can be shared with the technician. The headphones on our audiometers could affect the devices' pressure settings. These screenings help us ensure children can hear well, which is essential for learning and development. Please note that these screenings are not meant to replace regular well-child visits with a medical provider

Vision
If your child has glasses or contacts, please ensure they wear them for the screening. Our goal is to support every child's success in school and lifelong learning by helping ensure they can see clearly. Please note that these screenings are not a substitute for comprehensive eye exams conducted by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

We appreciate your support in making sure your child is ready to learn and grow. Working together, we can help every child see, hear, and succeed. If you have questions regarding our screenings, please contact us.

Thank You,

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