

each line, the child must correctly identify four of six symbols on the line. Repeat the procedure, covering the right eye. [Table 4-7](#) provides a list of visual screening tests for children and guidelines for referral.

TABLE 4-7
Eye Examination Guidelines*

Function	Recommended Tests	Referral Criteria	Comments
3 to 5 Years Old			
Distance visual acuity	Snellen letters Snellen numbers Tumbling E HOTV Picture test: • Allen figures • LEA symbols	1. Less than four of six correct on 20-foot (6-m) line with either eye tested at 10 feet (3 m) monocularly (i.e., <10/20 or 20/40) or 2. Two-line difference between eyes, even within passing range (i.e., 10/12.5 and 10/20 or 20/25 and 20/40)	1. Tests are listed in decreasing order of cognitive difficulty; highest test that child is capable of performing should be used; in general, tumbling E or HOTV test should be used for children 3 to 5 years old and Snellen letters or numbers for children 6 years old and older. 2. Testing distance of 10 feet (3 m) is recommended for all visual acuity tests. 3. Line of figures is preferred over single figures. 4. Non-tested eye should be covered by occluder held by examiner or by adhesive occluder patch applied to eye; examiner must ensure that it is not possible to peek with non-tested eye.
Ocular alignment	Cross cover test at 10 feet (3 m) Random dot E stereo test at 18 inches (40 cm) Simultaneous red reflex test (Bruckner test)	Any eye movement Less than four of six correct Any asymmetry of pupil color, size, brightness	Child must be fixing on a target while cross cover test is performed. Use direct ophthalmoscope to view both red reflexes simultaneously in a darkened room from 2 to 3 feet (0.6 to 0.9 m) away; detects asymmetric refractive errors as well.
Ocular media clarity (cataracts, tumors, and so on)	Red reflex	White pupil, dark spots, absent reflex	Use direct ophthalmoscope in a darkened room. View eyes separately at 12 to 18 inches (30 to 45 cm); white reflex indicates possible retinoblastoma.
6 Years Old and Older			
Distance visual acuity	Snellen letters Snellen numbers Tumbling E HOTV Picture test: • Allen figures	1. Less than four of six correct on 15-foot (4.5-m) line with either eye tested at 10 feet (3 m) monocularly (i.e., <10/15 or	1. Tests are listed in decreasing order of cognitive difficulty; highest test that child is capable of performing should be used; in general, tumbling E or HOTV test should be used for children 3 to 5 years old and Snellen letters or numbers for children 6 years old and older.