



**FIG 4-19** Alternate cover test to detect amblyopia in a patient with strabismus. **A**, The eye is occluded, and the child is fixating on light source. **B**, If the eye does not move when uncovered, the eyes are aligned.

### Visual Acuity Testing in Children

The most common test for measuring visual acuity is the **Snellen letter chart**, which consists of lines of letters of decreasing size. The child stands with his or her heels at a line 10 feet away from the chart. When screening for visual acuity in children, the nurse tests the child's right eye first by covering the left. Children who wear glasses should be screened with them on. Tell the child to keep both eyes open during the examination. If the child fails to read the current line, move up the chart to the next larger line. Continue up the chart until the child is able to read the line. Then begin moving down the chart again until the child fails to read the line. To pass