



**FIG 4-45** Testing for the Achilles reflex. The child should be in the same position as for the knee-jerk reflex. The foot is supported lightly in the examiner's hand, and the Achilles tendon is struck. Normal response is plantar flexion of the foot (the foot pointing downward).

## Cranial Nerves

Assessment of the cranial nerves is an important area of neurologic assessment ([Fig. 4-46](#); [Table 4-11](#)). With young children, present the tests as games to foster trust and security at the beginning of the examination. Also include the cranial nerve test when examining each system, such as tongue movement and strength, gag reflex, swallowing, cardinal positions of gaze ([Fig. 4-47](#)), and position of the uvula during examination of the mouth.