



The goal of the Hearing Screening Program is to identify hearing loss in children as early as possible in order to help reduce preventable hearing loss or ear disease and initiate necessary steps to alleviate and reduce trauma of hearing loss.

Children of preschool and school age are screened for hearing problems at regular intervals by a Michigan Department of Health & Human Resources (MDHHS) trained hearing technician.

The screenings are conducted in the schools and by appointment at the Sanilac County Health Department. School hearing screenings are provided annually to children in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 2 and 4.

Any other children age three or older, who are referred to the program by a parent, teacher, or school nurse because of a suspected hearing problem, will also be screened.

When a child does not pass a hearing screening, the child will be referred to a family physician or an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist. Your physician may

prescribe medicine or make a referral to an Audiologist.

Good hearing in children is essential to normal development. Undetected and untreated hearing loss affects your child's:

- Speech and language development
- Educational abilities
- Psychological development
- Social/emotional development



The goal of the Vision Screening Program is to identify children with vision problems and assure referral to eye care professionals. Children often enter school with vision problems because they are unaware that they see differently. Early identification of an eye problem is important. Conditions such as amblyopia, or lazy eye, can be prevented if detected and treated during preschool years.

Children of preschool and school age are screened for vision problems at regular intervals by a MDHHS trained vision technician. The screenings are conducted in the schools and by appointments at the Sanilac County Health Department. Vision screening of preschool children are

conducted at least once between the ages of three to five years, and school age children are screened in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7. Any other children age three or older, who are referred to the program by a parent, teacher, or school nurse because of a suspected vision problem, will also be screened. At initial testing and/or retesting, children who are unable to pass one or more exercises, which screen for muscle imbalance, clearness of vision, farsightedness, and symptoms of eyesight problems are referred to an eye doctor of the family's choice. Impaired vision in children can seriously impede learning and can contribute to development of emotional and behavioral problems.

Some common visual defects are:

- Amblyopia (also known as "lazy eye", caused by misalignment of child's eyes such as crossed eye)
- Unequal vision (one eye focusing better than the other)
- Errors in refraction (blurred vision)
- Myopia (nearsightedness)
- Hyperopia (farsightedness)
- Astigmatism (distorted vision)

How much do this service cost?

This is a free service provided by the Sanilac County Health Department.

Your local health department works in conjunction with your child's school to provide hearing and vision screenings based on the chart to the right.

Hearing and Vision Screening Requirements		
Pre-school	X	X
Kindergarten	X	
1st Grade		X
2nd Grade	X	
3rd Grade		X
4th Grade	X	
5th Grade		X
7th Grade		X
9th		X

*Some local public health departments may schedule screenings at different intervals. Call your local public health department for more information.

DON'T WAIT!

THE SCREENINGS ARE FREE!

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW!

810.648.4098 ext. 196



SANILAC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Hearing & Vision Program



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