



fraserhealth

Better health.

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October 1, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Kindergarten Vision and Hearing Screening for School Year 2021-2022

Vision and hearing are important aspects of a child’s life and development. As a result, we recommend that you make an appointment to take your child to a local optometrist to receive a free eye exam in their kindergarten year. And, if your child is experiencing hearing concerns please contact your local public health audiology (hearing) clinic.

Vision

In B.C., basic vision exams are free for children up to the age of 18, although some optometrists may charge a small user fee per visit. B.C.’s Healthy Kids Program may also be able to support eligible families with financial assistance for prescription glasses. Go to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov> and search “hearing care” for more information.

To find an optometrist in your area, call the B.C. Doctors of Optometry at 604-737-9907 (toll-free 1-888-393-2226), or visit their website at bc.doctorsofoptometry.ca.

For more information about vision services for children, go to B.C.’s website at healthlinkbc.ca and search “elementary school age children and vision”.

Hearing

Community audiologists provide hearing services for children from birth to 19 years. Good hearing is essential for speech and language development and plays an important part in a child’s social and emotional growth. For children who have hearing concerns, referrals to a audiologist can be made by a parent/guardian or by a health or education professional to the local public health audiology clinic.

For more information about hearing services for your child, visit our website at Fraserhealth.ca and search “hearing services for children”. If you have questions or concerns please contact your local public health unit.

Sincerely,

Ariella Zbar MD, CCFP, MPH, MBA, FRCPC
Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health Authority

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