

Screening Skills: Near Point Convergence

Purpose: To determine the ability of the eyes to focus on a single object at close range.	
Equipment: A small hand-held fixation target that requires visual accommodation. Examples: finger puppet, pencil puppet, or tongue depressor with a picture sticker attached to the end.	
Who is Screened: Optional test may be performed on students in pre-kindergarten and older upon referral/concern from teacher, parent or nurse.	
Skill Steps	Notes
Screening Set Up	
Ensure adequate lighting	
Procedure	
Position student directly in front of screener	
If the student was prescribed glasses for full-time use, screen with the glasses. If glasses were prescribed for part-time near use only, screen without glasses. If student doesn't know whether glasses are for near or distance use, screen with and without glasses.	
Hold the fixation target at 18 inches from the student's face.	
Instructions to students: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have the student to look at the target as the screener moves it slowly toward the bridge of the student's nose stopping before the student's nose. 2. Let the student know that you will not touch them with the target. 3. Tell the student to let you know right away if the target splits in half or becomes two objects. 	
As the target is moved toward the student's nose, observe the eye movement. Keen observation is needed. Eyes should converge towards nose in a smooth and even manner. Be aware of shaking, uneven or drifting eye movement.	
Repeat the test three times. Watch the eyes to determine the distance from the nose if student reports that the target splits in half or becomes two objects. Record the number in inches. Student should NOT see two targets.	
For all failures, repeat the test to make sure the student did not just look away at that moment. If having difficulty determining a pass or fail, you may repeat the test or refer to an eye care professional.	
Pass Criteria for Near Point Convergence	
The student should be able to converge to at least 3-4 inches, measured from the bridge of the nose. A normal response is a movement of both eyes nasally, with convergence of the two axes of the eyes. An inability of the eyes to converge to within 3 inches of the nose may be related to convergence insufficiency, limited accommodation, a problem with the extra ocular muscles, or a frank neurological ocular or systemic condition. Referral to an eye care professional is recommended if the child is unable to maintain convergence to within 3 inches of the nose, one eye turns out, or excessive strain is noted. No rescreening is required.	
Referral Criteria	
Recommended that Students Receive an Evaluation by an Eye Care Professional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document in the student's health file and continue to be on alert for teacher concerns. 	

Helpful Tips:

- This skill requires practice
- Consider using the Symptoms Questionnaire to obtain more vision-related information from teachers and parent/guardian