



Issue: Lea Charts (Vision Testing Tool)

Raised by: Maternal, Child & Youth Health Team (MCYH)

Background: Current practice as per the Healthy School Aged Kids Manual prescribes use of the Snellen E chart to test visual acuity at 4 to 5 years of age and 10 years of age. In 2007 Lea (pronounced Lee-ah) Symbol Charts will replace Snellen E Charts as the screening tool for visual acuity, now only in 4 and 5 year old's. Lea symbol charts are used to test visual acuity in pre literate and non literate children.

Discussion: The Lea Symbols chart is designed to eliminate problems associated with language barriers. The chart gives high sensitivity for measuring visual acuity in both childhood (age 4 and above) with early and reliable detection of amblyopia (difference in vision between the two eyes).

In the HSAK screening process, testing visual acuity of young children is carried out to detect amblyopia, and any other obvious abnormalities.

Lea charts are widely used and recommended by ophthalmic and paediatric groups both nationally and internationally. Currently other areas of the Department have adopted the use of Lea Charts as the vision testing tool of choice. The symbols are easy to recognise and accessories are available to create a "play situation", making screening easier and more accurate.

Lea symbol charts are able to be used in older children / adults, but advice received recommends the continued use of lettered Snellen or Snellen E charts in adults as a general rule.

Consultation: MC&YH Team, Dr Christine Connors (Director PCD), Dr Tim Henderson (Ophthalmologist, CA)

References: "Sensitivity and specificity of a visual acuity screening protocol performed with the Lea Symbols 15-line folding distance chart in preschool children".

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=17083543&dopt=Abstract

"Preliminary report: examination of young children with Lea symbols."

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=11035563&dopt=Abstract

"Comparison of the HOTV and Lea Symbols charts for preschool vision screening."

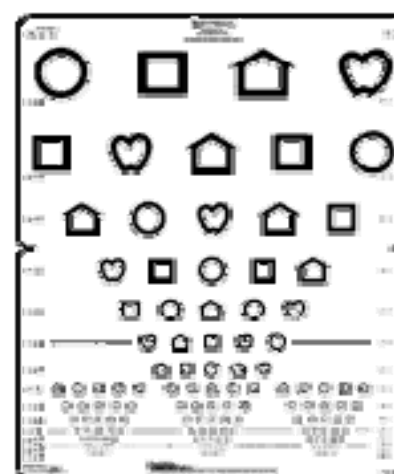
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"Tests for eye conditions and vision." Dr Jann Marshall, Child & Community Health, Women's and Children's Health Service WA, 2005

Outcome: Lea charts will be purchased centrally and distributed to Health Centres.

Training in the use of Lea Charts will be provided by the MCYH Team, principally in conjunction with preparation for school-age screening events.

Lettered Snellen and Snellen E charts are to be retained as standard equipment.



15-line Lea Chart