

Visual Acuity

What does this mean?

- Visual acuity (VA) refers to the clarity or sharpness of vision or the ability to see objects clearly.
- VA is dependent on the functioning of the eye and the brain to be able to interpret the images.
- It is measured by identifying letters on a standardised Snellen or LogMAR eye chart from a specific viewing distance. For smaller children who cannot read, pictures are identified on a Kay Picture chart instead. VA is tested one eye at a time and with both eyes together.

Implications for learning



Visual Acuity

Snellen / LogMAR Equivalent

6/6	0.0	normal vision.
6/15	0.4	acuity required for driving test.
6/18	0.5	vision impairment if contrast is reduced or if there are ocular motor problems
6/24	0.6	will not see detail at a distance, sits close to TV, problems seeing the board, and problems reading small print.
6/60	0.8	visual sphere 3-4 metres, peering behaviour for near vision literacy tasks.
3/60		visual sphere 0.5-1.5 metres, recognises people only when close, possible problems with mobility and will require large print.

Object perception

Counts fingers

Perception of light

Ways to help

- Have your child's eyes tested regularly – it is free
- Follow advice from your child's VI Teacher

Other resources:

www.berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk

Related sheets:

Registration and certification