

Following the review of a child's School Entrant Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and/or referral form by a primary school nurse a direct health assessment of the child may be recommended. If a child requires a direct health assessment, such as a vision or hearing test, the nurse will see the child at the school. Assessments can only take place with parent/carer written consent.



Vision screening

Vision screening is usually conducted when the parent/carer responds in the SEHQ/referral form that no previous vision screening has been conducted or that they are concerned about their child's vision.

Distance vision screening is conducted at school. This involves the nurse asking the child to identify shapes on a vision chart. Following vision screening all parents/carers are notified of the outcome and if a referral to an eye care provider is recommended.

Hearing screening

Hearing screening is usually conducted when a child is identified as 'at risk' for hearing problems such as when a parent/carer identifies in the SEHQ/referral form a concern about their child's hearing or states a concern about their child's speech and language.

Audiometry screening is conducted at school. This involves the nurse placing a set of headphones on the child and asking the child to respond (usually with a clap) when sounds are heard. Following hearing screening all parents/carers are notified of the outcome and if a referral to a General Practitioner (GP) and/or Audiologist is recommended.



Mouth check

A mouth check is usually conducted when a parent/carer has identified concerns about their child's mouth, gums or teeth in the SEHQ/referral form.

The mouth check is conducted at school and involves the child being asked to lift his/her own lips with their thumb and forefingers showing the teeth and also opening the mouth wide to enable a clear view of the inside of the mouth. Following a mouth check all parents/carers are notified of the outcome and if a referral to dental service is recommended.



Height weight and BMI (body mass index)

A child's height and weight are measured when a parent/carer has identified a concern about their child being underweight or overweight in the SEHQ/referral form.

These measurements are conducted at school. To ensure more accurate measurement of height and weight children are required to remove their shoes. Following height and weight assessment nurses are able to provide parent/carers with an indication of the child's growth and development based on age and gender. The BMI may also be calculated as this provides an indication of whether the child is underweight, a healthy weight, overweight or obese. Parents/carers are notified of the outcome and if a referral is recommended to a General Practitioner (GP) or dietician.

Speech and language screening

Speech and language screening is usually conducted when the parent/carer identifies a concern about their child's speech and language in the SEHQ/referral form and following conversation about these concerns with the school nurse.

This screen is conducted at school and involves the nurse asking the child a series of questions that are designed to identify speech and language difficulties. Following speech and language screening parents/carers are notified of the outcome and pathways available for support. A referral may be recommended to a speech pathologist.

Additional assessments

Other screening can be recommended and instigated by the school nurse to assess a child's learning, development and skills in a broad range of areas, such as general knowledge, language development, body awareness and fine and gross motor skills. The nurse will contact parent/carers to discuss the need and to obtain consent for any additional assessments.



If you would like further information about Primary School Nursing Health Assessments please contact the program manager in your regional office. Details available at:

www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/schoolnursing/contact.htm