



REFERRALS AFTER THE EYE TEST... WHAT NOW?

Your child has had an eye test. The results of the test did not meet the expected norm. Your child has been referred to the ophthalmologist for further examination. We would therefore like to give you some additional information about what this means and what you can expect.

PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE EYE TEST

The eye test screens the increased risk of the development of a lazy eye. We know that if this is discovered in time, it is possible to prevent a child from developing a lazy eye. A "lazy eye" ("amblyopie" in medical terms) is poor vision in one eye. This arises because the eye has not been able to develop normally during the early years of childhood.

WHY VISIT THE OPHTHALMOLOGIST?

The eye test is not the same as an eye examination by an ophthalmologist. The abnormal result means that the child has an increased risk of developing a lazy eye. The Kind en Gezin (Child and Family) test does not provide information about the cause or the degree of the possible abnormality of the eye. Further tests by an ophthalmologist are necessary for this. Sometimes a child is referred to an ophthalmologist, but the specialist does not find any abnormality. The eye test is only a snapshot, after all, and young children's eyes are constantly developing.

AT THE OPHTHALMOLOGIST

The following tips may be helpful to ensure that the appointment with the ophthalmologist runs smoothly.

- When you make the appointment, mention that your child has been referred after an eye test with Kind en Gezin.
- It can sometimes take about 2 months before you will be able to visit the ophthalmologist. You don't need to be concerned about this. The check-up is not urgent, but it is important that it takes place.
- Make an appointment at a moment when you can free up enough of your own time and, if applicable, can organise childcare for your other children. If the child and the parent(s) is (are) relaxed, this makes the examination all the easier.
- Bring along a snack for your child in case he or she should become hungry while in the waiting room or during the consultation.
- The ophthalmologist will carry out a number of tests, including one where drops are put into the eyes. There will be a short wait after putting in the drops before the test is taken.
- After the examination, the ophthalmologist will decide whether or not treatment is necessary. Sometimes treatment is postponed with young children whose eyes are still developing. Follow up and check-ups are also very important.