

A black and white photograph of a woman with glasses and a dark top, sitting and pointing her right index finger towards a baby. The baby is wearing a light-colored shirt and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

## REFERRAL AFTER THE EYE TEST... Now what?

Your child has been given an eye test. The results of this test were outside the expected values. Your child is being referred to the ophthalmologist for further examination.

For this reason, we are providing you with additional information about what this means and what you can expect further.

### PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE EYE TEST

The eye test is a screening test during which most factors that give rise to the development of a lazy eye and several serious eye anomalies are tracked down. After all, we all know that the timely tracking and treatment can prevent a child from developing a lazy eye. A 'lazy eye' (the medical term is 'amblyopia') is poor sight in one eye. This arises because the eye was not able to develop normally during the early years of childhood.

### WHY VISIT THE OPHTHALMOLOGIST?

The eye test performed at Kind en Gezin is not the same as an eye test by an ophthalmologist. A deviating results means that a child has a greater risk of developing a lazy eye. The test undertaken by Kind en Gezin thus says nothing about the nature or seriousness of possible anomalies of the eye.

For that, additional examination is required by the ophthalmologist. Sometimes a child is referred, but the ophthalmologist does not detect an eye anomaly. The eye test is, after all, a snapshot and the eyes of small children are still in the process of development.

### AT THE OPHTHALMOLOGIST

To ensure that the appointment with the ophthalmologist runs smoothly, the following tips can prove useful:

- When making the appointment, state that you have been referred following an eye test by Kind en Gezin.
- It can sometimes take a few months before you can have a consultation with the ophthalmologist. You should not become concerned about this. The examination is not urgent, but it is important that it takes place.
- Make an appointment for a moment when you are able to free up sufficient time and, if necessary, to make arrangements for childcare for your other children. If both the child and its parent(s) are at ease, this facilitates the examination.
- Take a feed for your child with you, so that you have it with you if your child gets hungry in the waiting room or during the examination.
- The ophthalmologist performs a number of tests, including a test in which drops are placed in the eye. After the drops have been given, you need to wait for a while before the test can be performed.
- After the examination, the ophthalmologist will decide whether treatment is necessary. In young children, where the eyes are still developing, the treatment may be postponed until later. Monitoring and control remain important.

