



HOW TO SCREEN FOR CONVERGENCE INSUFFICIENCY

You can test for convergence insufficiency using a pen or small toy. Sit directly in front of the child, and have him/her look at your nose, then at the pen/toy (held at 10cm from their nose), and watch their eyes for equal convergence (turning the eyes in). If the pen/toy is aligned with the centre of their nose, both eyes should be turned in by the same amount. Do a few jumps between your nose and the pen/toy, having the child hold the nearer focus for a few seconds each time.

- You are looking for the child to focus steadily on the pen/toy, with both eyes remaining still.

- Watch for one eye not looking at the pen / both eyes looking then drifting outwards / switching focus between the eyes.

This is testing how well the student can make the eye movement of board-to-book, which is done repeatedly at school, and also how well they can hold their focus on a close task, for example, reading.

Once you have established whether or not the child can hold this convergence, then ask them an age appropriate question and prompt them to keep looking at the pen/toy. Whatever the question is, it must make them THINK – this is testing whether the student is able to hold their eye coordination while thinking and doing something new; an inability to hold convergence while thinking affects a child's concentration and comprehension while reading/writing.

If you see one or both eyes wandering, ask the child to 'look at the pen' or 'use both eyes' – even from an early age, children know exactly what this means. Repeat this test a few times to gauge their ability.

If you have any questions, please contact us on **(07) 3210 1822**



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