

Key community eye health messages

If you see something white inside a child's eye, seek help



DIMARAS H, KIMANI K, ET AL. LANCET SEMINAR, 2012

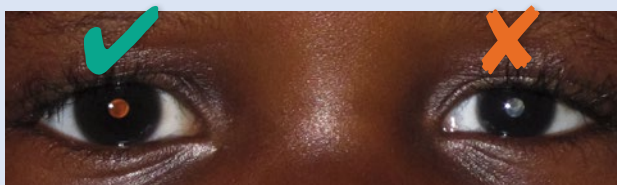
- This is easier to see in the early morning or late evening, or by a dim light
- Vision may not be affected
- Be determined. Do not let anyone turn you away until a specialist eye doctor has looked inside the child's eyes
- Health workers: believe the parents/carers and refer to a specialist – it is an emergency

Test the red reflex if you are able to



HEIKO PHILIPPIN

Left eye: the absence of a red reflex is abnormal and could indicate a serious condition. The reflex in the right eye is normal



HEIKO PHILIPPIN

Left eye: The wrong colour reflex (here white). The child has a cataract in the left eye and needs urgent treatment to avoid permanent vision loss

- The reflex should be the same in both eyes
- Check the red reflex in a relative's eye for comparison if you are unsure
- An abnormal, or absent, red reflex in one or both eyes is serious and may indicate cataract or retinoblastoma
- An absent red reflex is also abnormal
- An abnormal red reflex is an emergency. Refer the child to a specialist urgently
- If you have any doubts, refer to a specialist who can examine the back of the eye

Enucleation saves lives. With well fitted prostheses, children can have an attractive outcome



SWATHI KALIKI

After healing, a prosthesis is fitted in the left eye



SWATHI KALIKI

There is very little difference between the two eyes, allowing this girl to have a normal life