

How to use the Kay Picture Test

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The Kay Picture Test vision testing books are simple and quick to use. The tests measure accurate visual acuity in children as soon as they are naming familiar objects, which can be as young as 18 months, and commonly by 24 months.

For those new to testing vision with the Kay Picture Test, this information suggests a testing procedure, shows a step by step method using the Single LogMAR and Crowded LogMAR test books and gives some general advice on testing young children.

A very similar procedure applies to all our test sets. Full instructions are printed in all the books and charts.

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Testing with the Kay Picture Test

The Kay Picture Test books are all designed to make testing young children a fun, quick and easy process.

All the acuity sizes are together in one book and there is a choice of three or four pictures at each acuity size. This variety keeps a child interested during the test and allows a different selection to be shown when testing each eye in turn.

The Single and Crowded LogMAR Test books shown here are in LogMAR sizing which has eleven acuity sizes, compared with seven in Snellen sizing.

LogMAR is has a more consistent sizing progression than Snellen, however the equivalent Snellen notation in metres and feet is also clearly shown.

The top photo shows the tab in the Single LogMAR book. The duck picture is 0.9 size in LogMAR, The 24 is the Snellen denominator figure in metres (recorded as 3/24). The 80 is Snellen feet measurement (recorded as 10/80).

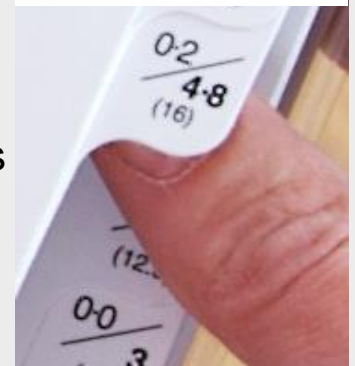
The lower picture shows the LogMAR score of 0.2 in the Crowded Book. The 4.8 is the Snellen denominator figure in metres (recorded as 3/4.8). The 16 is Snellen feet measurement (recorded as 10/16).

If you prefer to use the standard Snellen notation of 6/6 or 20/20, simply double both numerator and denominator numbers.

Single book index



Crowded book index



Testing with the Kay Picture Test



First, ask the child to name each picture and accept what they say, repeating all plausible names back as confirmation. “ cup of tea, fishy, house, welly” etc.

If they get a picture completely wrong, for example calling the apple a banana, don't worry. Sometimes the parent has an explanation that all fruit is a “nana”, or they may correct the child themselves.

If the child doesn't name the pictures, involve the parent in asking. You may need to move away while a very shy child talks at first. If a child gets stuck on one particular picture ask the parent what they would call it, or offer a couple of suggestions “ is it a car, a van or a train?” Many children are reluctant to speak in case they get it wrong and need encouragement.

Don't forget to tell the child how clever they are to know all those pictures, then say something like “we are going to play a game to see how clever your eyes are at seeing all the tiny little pictures in my book” then move to the correct testing distance (3 metres or 10 feet).

Testing with the Kay Picture Test



For the youngest children it is usually a good idea to test vision both eyes open at first. When occluding one eye with occluding glasses, offer a choice and make sure they fit !



Say "Now we're going to play the game wearing my special glasses."



Testing each eye should then be a quick check at or around the acuity level achieved with both eyes open. It is common to achieve one size below their binocular acuity.

Finish with a reward

Single Kay Picture Test

Use single pictures when testing children from age 18 months, or as soon as they can name pictures.

Good clear speech is not necessary as long as you or the parent can differentiate between the sounds made for each picture. Children can usually match pictures by age 30 months.



1. Open the book from the front. All the pictures and acuity sizes are in the tab index on the right side.



2. Select a large picture by putting your right thumb in the tab.



3. Having chosen the Fish at 0.9 size, that page is lifted up and over to face the child.



4. The child sees the fish picture that you chose. Ignore the picture that is facing you.

During testing it helps if you remember which size you last chose from the tab as this may be the child's acuity measurement. Alternatively, look at the remaining sizes on the index tab in front of you to show the last acuity size shown.

Single Kay Picture Test

1. Choosing the boot at 0.600 size



2. Show the boot



Choose each new picture from the tab index and flip the page over to show it to the child, holding the book at the child's eye level.

The last sizes in that tab are 0.500.

To view the remaining acuity sizes you must open the book from the back. The tab index now shows sizes 0.400 to 0.00. Now complete the testing as before.

Continue, choosing smaller pictures from the index (not necessarily every size) until you reach a point where the child is not able to correctly identify a picture. Check the other pictures at that size. The child's visual acuity is the smallest size they could correctly identify.

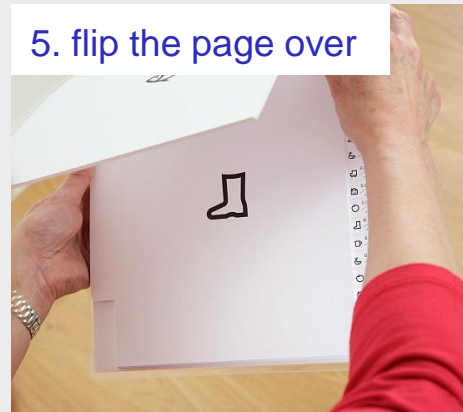
3. Open from the back



4. Choosing 0.300 size Cup with your thumb



5. flip the page over



6. show the child the cup



Crowded Kay Picture Test

Crowded acuity measurements are more accurate than single. It is advisable to test with crowded (linear) pictures as soon as a child is able to concentrate sufficiently. This is usually by 36 months of age

The Crowded Test provides two complete tests with a different picture arrangement for each eye. The full range of acuity sizes is shown on the tabbed index when you open the book.

When testing the other eye, turn the book over and open from the back and select from this other tabbed index.



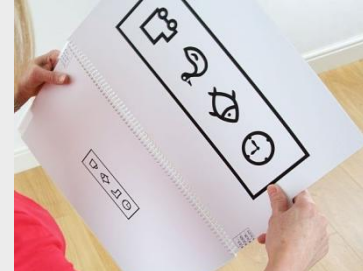
1. Open book from the front



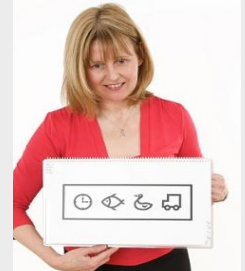
2. Tab index is on the right



3. Use thumb to choose picture size



4. Flip page to face the child



5. Ask him to name one

Repeat with smaller sizes until you reach the child's threshold acuity. At this point ask him to name all the pictures at that acuity level plus one size above and below if possible.

Crowded Kay Picture Test



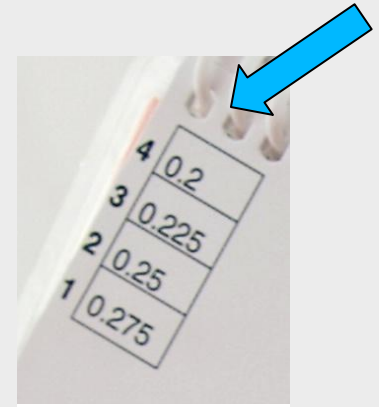
1. The acuity score is shown on the tab index in LogMAR and Snellen (metres and feet)



2. The photo shows choosing size 0.2
3/4.8 metres
10/16 feet



3. Flip the page over to face the child. Do not be confused by the pictures facing you.



4. This is the table on the top left facing you for 0.2 size pictures



5. Hold the book close to you and at eye level for the child.

To test the other eye open the book from the back and repeat with a different arrangement of the same pictures for the other eye. [Full instructions are printed in the books.](#)

Kay Picture Test

During testing, if a child fails to name a picture it may be for a number of reasons:

- They may have reached their threshold acuity.
- They may be finding it harder to see and do not want to try and get it wrong.
- They may have become distracted or bored.

1. Try asking “can you see my picture or is it too small?”
It can give some children confidence to answer.
2. Bring the picture closer until they identify it, then move back to your testing distance and show a different, same size picture.
3. Look for signs that the child is struggling to see, such as head and body movements and react to reassure.
4. Refer to any picture the child is trying hard to see as “ tiny, little, small or far away” and constantly praise and reassure them how well they are doing.
5. Know when to give up. Don’t spend too long in case the child gets upset or bored.

