



Checking for the Red Reflex in Children

The **red reflex** is extremely important in assessing children. It is a non-invasive test and should be used at all assessments.



Method

Sit in front of the child and parent at about arm's length. Set the ophthalmoscope to around +2 (green or black) and focus on the parent's eyes to show that the test is non-invasive and recognition of the normal red reflex in that particular ethnic group. Then focus on the child's face and encourage the child to look at the light. Focus on the red reflex within the pupil.



Outcomes

Normal Red Reflex → No referral



Red Reflex Absent

Obvious +/- asymmetry → Urgent referral

Unsure/difficult assessment → POPC referral

Paediatric Ophthalmology Primary Care Clinic



Red Reflex Abnormal → Urgent referral

Please show these images to parents as they may have taken photos demonstrating unusual **red reflexes**.

Please refer patients to Mr. M Ashwin Reddy, Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist and Retinoblastoma Surgeon, Department of Ophthalmology, Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BB. Tel: 020 7377 7426 Fax: 020 7377 7112

