

# Vision and Hearing Screening

The Texas Health and Safety Code requires that all children enrolled for the first time in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school or in a Department of Family and Protective Services licensed child-care center and licensed child care home in Texas, or who meet certain grade criteria (specified below), must be screened or have a professional examination for possible vision and hearing problems.

The requirements apply each year for children enrolled in any licensed child-care center and licensed child care home or school program at the ages or grades listed below:

- Children who turn 4-years-old by September 1, kindergartners or any other first-time entrants (4 years\* through 12th grade) - screening must be done within 120 days of admission
- 1st-, 3rd-, 5th- and 7th graders - screening must be done anytime within the school year (preferably within first semester)

# Spinal Screening

In 1985, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 832 which requires screening for abnormal spinal curves for students in grades 6 and 9 attending public and private schools. The school is then required to notify the parents if a child shows any signs of a possible curvature. Screening should be done during the growth spurt years, ages 10-14 years (Grades 5-9), to detect spinal deformities early. The screening requirement for children entering grades 6 and 9 may be met if the child has been screened for spinal deformities by a physician and a record has been provided.