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## **DETERMINATION AND ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL ACUITY OF PRESCHOOLERS AND ITS INFLUENCE FACTORS**

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Undetected vision problems that have not been corrected in time can affect a child's development and even lead to irreversible vision loss. Statistics from Moldova, show how it has increased among children's incidence through eye diseases and its annexes, which in 2014 amounted to 78.3 cases per 10 thousand inhabitants, 2015 - 120.6 cases.

The aim of the research is to analyze the factors that lead to deviations in visual acuity of preschoolers aged 3 to 6 years, including changes during the pandemic. In order to achieve the research goals, the sanitary-hygienic norms were evaluated, the age peculiarities were studied, the main factors influencing the visual acuity were determined. 108 children aged 4-6 years were examined with optotypes to determine the deviations of acuity. Another 295 forms were filled in by parents through the Google Forms. The form had 17 questions that contained information about the main risk factors investigated: genetics, time spent in front of TV and mobile screens, stress, time spent outside and compliance with sanitary conditions of the workplace (location and height of the table, chair, light).

28 4-year-old children examined with the Lea optotype, have an acuity of 1.0, only 3 children have 0.8 (10.7%), and with a broken wheel optotype, 38 5-year-old children were examined, of which 5 have an acuity of 0.9 (13.1%), which is a normal parameter for these age groups. The 42 6-year-old children were examined with HOTV chart, 1 had 0.7 (2.38%), 3 children with 0.8 (7.14%), 2 children with 0.9 (4.76%). Out of a total of 108 children, 5 (4.62%) 6-year-old children showed signs of amblyopia, and 1 (0.9%) 4-year-old child with strabismus. Out of 295 completed forms, 83% of parents confirmed that their children spend more than an hour a day on TV and telephone, and since the pandemic they spend more than 3 hours and very little time outside. Only 68% have a table and chair of the right size and correct location. 17% of parents have myopia. And 11 parents noticed the worsening of their children's vision due to stress (change of place of residence, various incidents).

Visual function is a strong predictor of academic performance in school-age children, and vision disorders in childhood can continue to affect health and well-being throughout the years, which is why parents should focus on reducing modifiable risk factors.