



## The 'Mirror Test' for estimating visual acuity in infants

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*These include:*

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For both acuity card and mirror tests the infant was supported sitting on the mother's lap with the infant facing a wall with the minimum of distracting objects.

Infants were held approximately 20cm from a mirror until they were deemed to attend their own reflection. The child was then moved slowly back until fixation was lost, as evidenced by the head and eyes turning away.

- Mirror to child distance was measured with a tape measure. Because of reflection, the actual viewing distance is 2x the distance from the child to the mirror.
- The process was carried out 5 times. Low and high values were discarded & mean of the 3 other values = threshold.
- 2 different mirror arrangements: a hand-held mirror and a wall-mounted mirror. Wall-mounted: top part was shielded to block out mother's face.
- Mirror size  $\approx 30\text{cm} \times 40\text{cm}$  avoided any practical problems of loss of face reflection due to image decentration as viewing distance increased
- Good attention to the mirror test was recorded for 24/26 (92%) children using the wall mounted mirror c.f. hand held mirror 33/55 (62%) (chi square = 8.19,  $p=0.017$ )

Figure 2

