

## Dilating eye drops

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Information for parents from the 3V2 Eye Clinic.

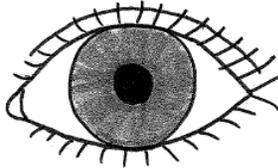
Dilating eye drops help the doctor see inside your child's eyes.

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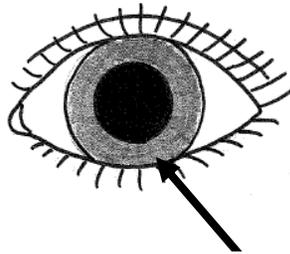
## What are dilating eye drops?

Dilating eye drops contain medication that opens (dilates) the black centre of the eye (pupil).

### Before drops



### After drops



**Dilated pupil**

## Why does my child need these drops?

We will dilate the pupils of your child's eyes to:

- ✓ examine the back of the eye (retina), and
- ✓ take accurate measurements to see if the eye is farsighted or nearsighted.

## Are these drops safe?

Yes, the drops are very safe. They are used every day in eye clinics across the country. Allergic reactions are very rare.

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## How long does it take for the drops to work?

Usually the drops take about 30 minutes to work. The exact time varies for each child.

Blue eyes are more sensitive to the medication and dilate faster than brown eyes. Brown eyes can take over an hour to dilate.

Some pupils don't dilate well at all, even after many drops.

## How will the drops affect my child's vision?

Your child can see even with drops in his or her eyes. However, the vision will be blurry for a few hours. The drops mainly affect near vision, not distance vision.

The drops do not usually make children's eyes more sensitive to light.

## Can my child go to school after having dilating drops?

Yes, your child can go to school. Tell the teacher that your child's vision will be blurry for a few hours, as this will affect activities such as reading.

**If you have questions or concerns  
please call the Eye Clinic at  
905-521-2100, ext 72400.**

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