This material will help you understand retinoscopy and how it is used.

**What is retinoscopy?**

Retinoscopy is a technique used by eye doctors to measure refractive errors. Refractive errors include nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. Measuring a refractive error is the way to determine if a child needs glasses. Retinoscopy is a reliable test even for children and infants.

**How is retinoscopy performed?**

Before a retinoscopy is performed, a child’s eyes are usually dilated using eye drops. The pupils are the black areas in the center of the eyes. Dilation makes a child’s pupils larger and prevents them from changing size. This helps the doctor measure a refractive error more accurately.

During retinoscopy, a doctor uses a hand-held instrument called a retinoscope. The retinoscope projects a beam of light into the eyes. By observing the movement of the light through different power lenses the doctor can determine a child’s glasses prescription.
For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.

http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/95