Appendix 1.

Selected parts of the educational cartoon intended to improve compliance with occlusion therapy for amblyopia. The cartoon consists of three parts which were bound together in one booklet.



Part I: The cartoon story

As the cartoon focused mainly on the child, it was written from the perspective of a child aged between 3 and 6. Its purpose was to explain the principles of the lazy eye and its treatment, and the need for subsequent visits to the treating orthoptist. As most children treated for amblyopia are too young to read, it was designed without text. To enable each child to identify with the character in the cartoon, animal figures and other distracting visual elements were not included. The cartoons did not explicitly represent any ethnic or cultural group, and were depicted in black and white so children could colour them in according to their own interpretation. A few fragments of the story are depicted below:



Part II: the calendar with stickers

The calendar and stickers served as a reward system: if the child was wearing the patch correctly that day, he or she was allowed to put a sticker on the calendar. The calendar covered a period of 84 weeks.



Part III: The parental information leaflet

As well as information about amblyopia and its causes, the leaflet describes the occlusion treatment and provides tips on patching. The information is available in six languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Turkish and Arabic).

