



Lakeville Lions Club Operation KidSight



Overview

Operation KidSight is a project of Lions Clubs throughout Indiana and the Indiana Lions Eye Bank, in partnership with the Indiana University Department of Ophthalmology. Its purpose is to identify treatable or preventable causes of vision impairment in children 1-6 years of age through **FREE** vision screenings provided by local Lions Clubs.

Early Screening Is Critical. The first few years of a child's life are critical in the development of normal vision. A child with vision problems often does not realize that the way they see the world is not the way everyone else sees it. Vision abnormalities in a child's eyes may occur even when the eye appears to look normal. It is estimated that 3–4% of children may have vision loss from undetected amblyopia - commonly referred to as "lazy eye." Amblyopia results when one or both eyes send a blurry image to the brain and the brain does not learn to see clearly. If this and other problems are not detected early, a child's vision may deteriorate to the point of irreversible blindness. Research indicates that 70–80% of what a child learns is visually acquired and there is evidence to suggest that children with undetected vision disorders are more likely to fail in school.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the vision screening performed?

Operation KidSight uses the PlusOptix screening system. The volunteer uses a specialized digital camera to take a measurement of the child's eyes from a comfortable distance of 3–4 feet. Pass/Refer criteria for the screening system follow guidelines established by the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, as modified by Dr. Daniel Neely, MD, a pediatric ophthalmologist at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Riley Hospital for Children, and the Midwest Eye Institute. Invisible, infrared light is projected through the pupils onto the retina. Depending on the refractive error or "prescription" of the eye, the reflected light forms a specific brightness pattern within the pupil, which the software analyzes to detect astigmatism, myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness), and anisometropia (imbalance between the two eyes). It also performs a gaze analysis to help detect strabismus (eye misalignment). Perhaps the most amazing thing is that all this information can be acquired and accessed in as little as five seconds.

What are the age limits or other qualifications for this screening?

The child must be old enough to fixate (look at a flashing light on the camera). This is typically possible after one year of age. The screening is aimed at children who are pre-verbal and who may not be able to describe to parents, teachers, or doctors clues to the fact that they do not have perfect vision. There are other tests, such as reading an eye chart, that are generally better for children over 5 years of age. The eyes are fully developed by age 6 and any screening and testing problems found after age 6 may be discovered too late to be corrected as a medical condition. The system does not detect neurological disorders. Therefore, we do not screen developmentally delayed or challenged children. Nor do we screen children who are wearing glasses, or are already under the care of an eye doctor and thus do not need vision screening.

What does the screening cost for the parents or the school?

The screening is provided as a community service at no cost to the parents or the school.

What happens to the results of the screening?

Results are sent to the Operation KidSight central office in Indianapolis for review. After review, the

results are returned to the school where the screening was conducted to be shared with the parents of the students who were screened. Parents of students whose screening result was "REFER", rather than "PASS", should be advised that the screening indicates that their child may have a vision disorder and that they should make an appointment for the child to be seen by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

What resources are needed to conduct a vision screening at my school or daycare center?

We need a room that can have a relatively low light level so that the children's pupils are naturally dilated. We also need a table, 3-4 adult-sized chairs, and a power source. We have conducted vision screenings in classrooms, conference rooms, offices, gymnasiums, and on the darkened stage of a school auditorium.

Each child who will be screened must have a signed parental consent form. We are not allowed to screen a child without a signed parental consent form. We will provide you with digital copies of parental consent forms in both English and Spanish. You may print as many copies of these forms as you need.

How much time is required for a vision screening session?

We need 15-20 minutes to set up our equipment before we begin screening, and 10-15 minutes to pack up when we are done.

If the children are brought to the screening room in groups, rather than individually, we can screen 40-60 children per hour.

How can I arrange for an Operation KidSight vision screening at my school or daycare center?

The Lakeville Lions Club owns a **Plusoptix S09** vision screening system, and works with Lions Clubs in nearby communities to provide free vision screenings at daycare centers, pre-schools, kindergartens, and other sites. Contact us for more information, or to schedule a vision screening session in your community.

Contact Information

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