Wisconsin Lions Foundation Vision Screening

Ensuring that every child from six months to eighteen years old sees properly

Free Vision Screening

Wisconsin Lions Foundation and Lions KidSight, in partnership with your local Lions Clubs, are providing free vision screening in your community.

Lions KidSight is a nationwide program bringing Lions Clubs across the country together to ensure our children receive eye screenings and follow-up care when needed. We train and mobilize caring people to be able to easily and efficiently screen the vision health of our nation's children to help ensure they receive early academic and social development success that we all deserve - guided by the fact that 80% of a child's learning and development requires healthy, corrected vision.

What does Vision Screening Tell Us?

Vision screenings are not a diagnosis! If there is any concern about your child's results after screening, a referral form will be sent home. A referral does not mean your child needs glasses or treatment. It means your child's vision needs to be examined by an eye care professional.

The Importance of Vision Screening

- Vision problems affect 1 in every 4 school-aged children and 1 in every 20 preschool-aged children.
- 80% of a child's learning is related to sight.
- When vision problems begin in early childhood, a child doesn't know they have a problem because the brain compensates for the poor vision. Therefore, a child with a vision problem usually will not complain, and they may not have symptoms that parents would notice.
- Some vision problems must be identified before the child reaches the age of 7 to ensure successful treatment. This is true of Amblyopia ("Lazy Eye"), which if left untreated, can lead to permanent vision loss.
- Vision problems can be detected through a simple vision screening that takes less than five minutes. If a problem is detected, a professional eye examination is recommended.

Types of Vision Screeners

Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener - a handheld portable device. Both eyes can be screened at a 3-foot distance with one-touch activation to detect vision problems.

Plus Optix Vision Screener - screens for common vision problems. Performs screening in one second. Lights and sounds engage the child's attention.

Common Vision Problems

Early treatment of children's vision problems is important because it can provide children with added potential to learn and develop.

Refractive Error: A defect in the optics of the eye that results in a lack of precise focus of light rays on the retina, causing blurred vision.

Myopia (nearsightedness): Objects blurred at a distance.

Hyperopia (farsightedness): Objects blurred at close range.

Astigmatism: Distorted vision.

Amblyopia: Vision in one of the eyes is reduced because the eye and the brain are not working together properly.

Strabismus (crossed eye): Eyes that are not straight, eye muscles are not working together.

Anisometropia: The condition in which the two eyes have an unequal refractive power. One eye may be myopic (nearsighted) and the other hyperopic (farsighted).

Signs of Possible Eye Trouble

Appearance

- Crossed eyes
- Red-rimmed, encrusted or swollen eyelids
- Inflamed or watery eyes
- Recurring styes (infections) on eyelids

Behavior

- Rubs eyes excessively
- Shuts or covers one eye
- Tilts head or thrusts head forward
- Has difficulty with reading or other close-up work
- Blinks more than usual or is irritable when doing close-up work
- Is unable to see distant things clearly
- Squints eyelids together or frowns

Complaints

- Eyes itch, burn or feel scratchy
- Cannot see well
- Dizziness, headaches or nausea following close-up work
- Blurred or double vision

If your child exhibits one or more of the signs of possible eye trouble from above, professional eye care should be sought.

Technology Considerations

While basic eye-chart screenings have been around since 1899, and eye chart screenings are used in eye care practices, eye chart screenings have some limitations when used for large-scale children's vision screenings.

Eye chart screenings can be subjective and relies on well-trained school staff and personnel as well as very cooperative students in order to produce quick, reliable results. Eye chart screenings can miss potential issues, such as farsightedness, amblyopia factors, low-grade cases of myopia and astigmatism. In contrast, the digital, touchless technology used in our primary screening devices is highly accurate, automatic, and reliable. Our screening systems also provide immediate results.

Scan the QR code to find the vision screening chair in your area to schedule a screening

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