

Lions KidSight USA

A Children's Vision Screening Model for Beginners



The beginner model is designed to help new clubs and districts get started with children's vision screening. The following suggestions can help you establish an effective screening program that builds on your strong foundation of service to your community.

Get the Support of Your Lions and Community

A Lions club, district or multiple district should gain the support of its members and the community it serves. Make sure Lions completely understand what is being undertaken. An implementation plan including costs, manpower and time commitments should be developed.

Choosing the Right Vision Screening Equipment

Lions KidSight USA has established suggested features that effective vision screening equipment should have. They are as follows:

1. Easy to operate
2. Validated results
3. Simultaneous binocular assessment
4. Measure refractive error and its major components
5. Detect anisometropia (large difference in glasses prescription from eye to eye)
6. Detect strabismus (eyes don't point together)
7. Detect anisocoria (difference in pupil size)
8. Detect light transmission differential (may detect cataracts or other eye opacities)
9. Immediate indication of need for referral without the necessity of an eye care professional

You'll need to research equipment options to ensure you find the right screening device. Lions KidSight USA has partnered with [Plusoptix](#) and [Welch Allyn Spot](#), who are supporting the program through professional expertise and funding.

Both make excellent instruments that meet modern standards and the Lions KidSight USA guidelines. Costs range from \$6,000 - \$7,500 depending on instrument and options. Please visit the manufacturer's websites or call them with questions about equipment and pricing information.

Funding Your Vision Screening Equipment

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) offers matching grants, utilizing the [LCIF standard grant](#) criteria, for Lions KidSight USA projects. Please contact LCIF directly for information on grant applications, criteria and deadlines.

Find a Community Partner for Your Vision Screening

Lions should reach out to community agencies that work with children to help organize a vision screening:

- Local Head Start programs
- Kindergartens
- Nursery schools
- Sunday schools
- Hebrew schools
- Day care centers
- Other organized children's programs with a chief administrator

Speak with the administrator about the needs and benefits of doing children's vision screenings – especially for ages 6 months to 6 years. Offer Lions services in conducting these screenings, explaining that the methods used are scientifically validated by professional third parties. Once the agency agrees, schedule a time to do the screening.

Make Sure You Have a Parental Consent Form

The agency you are doing the screening for should obtain parental/guardian permission using an “official” form. A sample form is available on the Lions KidSight USA website. Please modify it for your specific needs. If you develop your own form, please ensure it has a disclaimer that the procedure to be performed is a “screening.” It will not be a substitute for, or have the same accuracy as, a comprehensive eye examination. If there are significant issues suspected, the child MUST have a comprehensive eye examination by a licensed eye care professional. It should be pointed out that “screenings” will not detect all children who need referral and may refer some children who do not need treatment.

Find the Right Screening Location

The vision screening should be done in a room or location with controllable light (to adjust the brightness) and without direct light shining into the screening device. DO NOT screen children in a small dark room. It is always best to have one of the agency's staff present during the entire screening process. One Lion should be assigned to operate the screener and, if necessary, the printer (for screening results). At the minimum, there should be one Lion assigned to organize the waiting line and collect the demographic information on the child screened. Another Lion should help children get into the proper place in front of the camera when it's their turn to be screened.

Managing Your Screening Results

The results of the individual screenings will be reported to the agency's administrator. Any referrals should be highlighted so the administrator can call the parent/guardian to inform them that a comprehensive eye examination needs to be scheduled. The agency is responsible for the proper maintenance of the screening results for the time frame required by individual state law.

Assisting Children with Referrals

If your club is prepared to assist with financing comprehensive examinations and/or glasses, arrangements should be made with the vision care providers and the agency should be informed of this possibility. It is strongly suggested that a one-to-one relationship with a particular provider be avoided. A list of local providers is preferable. If a club is planning to offer financial assistance, predetermined criteria for this assistance should be clearly written and followed.

What to Do after You've Completed Your Vision Screening

The Lions club should report the global data (number screened and number referred) to the Lions KidSight USA database (coming soon). About a month after the screening, the Lions club should contact the agency administrator to determine how many of the children referred actually received professional care.

Consider developing a community press release about your Lions KidSight USA screening projects to share your screening project with the community. You can include the number of children screened and referral rates, but you cannot mention children's names or any personal information collected at the screening due to privacy issues.

It may be useful to appoint a district childhood vision screening chair or KidSight chair to collect all the data and track the referrals and screening units. The Lions KidSight USA Team could then utilize this Lion as a contact person.