

## Why Vision Screening is Important for Young Children



## Lions Club Offers Free Spot Screening

### Why Screen Vision in Young Children?

- According to educational experts, 80% of learning is visual
- Most young children don't get their vision screened until they have problems learning. By then, it may already be too late.
- Unless vision problems are detected early and corrected, they risk becoming permanent by age 7.
- For example approximately 5% of all children under age 7 will have amblyopia, a treatable disorder that can result in permanently reduced vision when not addressed by an early age.



Spot Screening Device

### What Is Spot Vision Screening?

#### “Objective” method

- Works with children as young as six months
- Does not require letter recognition, reading ability, or response from child
- Easily performed by trained volunteer
- 98% Accuracy

#### Actual Screening Process

- The Spot screening device is held about 3 feet from face
- Detects scattering of infrared light from retina
- Quick (usually less than one minute per child), painless and non-threatening
- Results available immediately, with eye exam recommendation for results out of expected range

### What Vision Anomalies Are Detected?

#### By Refractive Analysis

- Astigmatism (irregularly shaped corneas or lenses)
- Myopia (nearsightedness)
- Hyperopia (farsightedness)
- Anisometropia (differences between the two eyes)

#### By Gaze Analysis

- Strabismus (misalignment of the eyes)
- Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- Anisocoria (pupil size anomalies)

### What Is The Overall Process for Spot Vision Screening?

#### Overall

- An approved Consent form is needed for children under the age of 18
- HIPAA compliant

#### Screening Process

- Consent forms signed by parents or guardians before screening
- Screening performed by Lions volunteers with assistance of school nurse or site coordinator
- Results of screening are sent to parents with letter suggesting next steps
- Copies of results kept in school/daycare files
- The school nurse or site coordinator will follow-up on referrals to check on outcome of seeing an eye care professional

# Role of Site Coordinator

## Before Screening Day

### *Initial Meeting with Lions*

- Confirm need for vision screening
- Provide potential screening dates
- Review standard Consent Form and agree on customization (1st day packet or during the school year)

### *Follow-up to Meeting*

- Send *Consent Form* to SAU for approval (if not already done)
- Confirm screening date once Spot is reserved
- Once approved get into 1<sup>st</sup> day packet if prior to beginning of school year, otherwise send Consent Form to parent/guardians two to three weeks prior to screening.

### *At Least One to Two Weeks Prior to Screening Day*

- Confirm date, finalize location and time (arrival, start of screening)
- Confirm space is appropriate for screening (low light, room for screener to stand or sit 3' in front of child, electrical outlets and table space)
- Discuss queuing of children for screening
- Review *USB Instruction Sheet* and the data required for each child to be screened.
- Review the *Screening Result Letter*.
- Finalize how results will be sent home (envelopes, inserting results/letter, labels)
- Confirm the follow up required on referrals

### *Just prior to Screening Day*

- Consent Forms are assembled
- The data is saved as a CSV (Comma delimited) file on USB drive
- If Lions have the Spot they can validate the file is OK the day before the screening.
- Print out the CSV file to use as a Screening Worksheet on the day of the screening.

## On Screening Day

### *Before Screening Begins*

- Bring Lions to room for screenings so they can set up Spot, printer and paperwork
- Give the Lions the USB, Consent Forms and printout of the Screening Worksheet
- Provide any late Consent Forms so they can be entered manually

### *During Screening*

- Coordinate delivery of children to screener
- If possible arrange children in alphabetical order to speed up screening

### *When Screening is Complete*

- Collect the printed report and *Screening Results Letter* for each child screened.
- Collect the Screening Worksheet, Consent Forms and duplicate copy of any *Complete Eye Exam Recommended* printouts.
- Witness data download from SPOT deleting all personal data for Lions records

## After Screening Day

### *Within One Week of Screening*

- File Consent Forms and duplicate copy of any *Complete Eye Exam Recommended* in student files.
- Send results and screening letter home to parents.
- Verify parents received the package if a referral was recommended and answer any questions they might have

### *About a Month After Screening*

- Contact parents of children who received referrals to see whether a visit to an eye care professional was done
- Report number of referrals that resulted in eye exams back to Lions