

NM Lions Operation KidSight, Inc.

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SCREENING OVERVIEW

New Mexico Lions Operation KidSight, Inc., (NMLOKS, Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) community service project funded in a large part by a sizeable grant from CHI St. Joseph's Children with the goal to screen children (3-7 years old) in NM for amblyogenic risk factors and to fund vision services treatment for referred children whose families cannot afford it.

NMLOKS, Inc., currently has 24 screening teams across NM. It has partnered with NMDOH to administer the Save Our Children Sight Fund which can provide financial assistance for students 2nd through 12th grade for an exam and glasses if they are not covered by Medicaid or insurance.

FACTS

- 86% of children entering 1st grade have had no eye exam.
- 20-25% of children enter school with vision problems that can affect their learning development and progress.
- 70% of school-age children who have a learning disability have some form of visual impairment.
- 95% of vision disorders can be corrected if detected early.

The best defense is early detection!

New Mexico Lions Operation KidSight, Inc.



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**Contributing Partners of NM
Lions Operation KidSight, Inc.**

MD40 Lions Clubs



The Importance of Having A Child's Eyes Checked Annually

The eye, muscles that control the eye, optic nerve, and the area of the brain that gives us vision are completely developed, no matter how perfectly or imperfectly, by the age of six. Vision deficiencies that may have occurred during development will be very difficult or impossible to treat after the age of 6 when vision development is completed. Many of these problems when caught early enough can be completely corrected, and the earlier they are diagnosed, the better the chance of correction and the easier and less expensive the treatment.

Photo Eye Screening is a tool to identify children whose eyes may have some type of defect, which, if left untreated, may lead to a lifetime of vision problems or blindness.

Photo screening is not a diagnostic tool as parents are advised to have the child seen by an eye doctor to get a proper diagnosis and treatment as may be indicated by the screening results.

Amblyopia, or lazy eye, is the eye condition noted by reduced vision where the brain, for some reason, does not fully acknowledge the images seen by the amblyopic eye. This almost always affects only one eye but may manifest with reduction of vision in both eyes.

It is estimated that three to five percent of children under six have some form of amblyopia.

Both eyes must receive clear images during the critical eye development period. Anything that interferes with clear vision in either eye during the critical period (birth to 6 years of age) can result in amblyopia. The most common causes of amblyopia are constant strabismus (constant turn of one eye), anisometropia (different vision/prescriptions in each eye), and/or blockage of an eye due to trauma, lid droop, etc. If one eye sees clearly and the other sees a blur, the good eye and brain will inhibit (block, suppress, ignore) the eye with the blur. Thus, amblyopia is a neurologically active process. If not treated, the inhibition process (suppression) can result in a permanent decrease in the vision in that eye that cannot be corrected with glasses, lenses, or lasik surgery. Since amblyopia usually occurs in one eye only, many parents and children may be unaware of the condition. Far too many parents fail to take their infants and toddlers in for an early comprehensive vision examination and many children go undiagnosed until they have their eyes examined at the eye doctor's office at a later age.

SCREENING PROCESS

The screening process is non-invasive, simple and quick. The child's head is placed in front of the PlusOptix S09 camera and a digital picture is taken. The pictures are evaluated real-time to determine if there may be a vision problem.

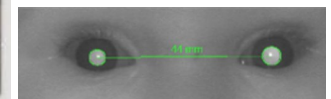


PlusOptix S09 System

If the screening detects the possibility that a child may have a vision problem, the parents of the child are notified and informed accordingly. **It is imperative that the parents set up an eye exam with an eye professional as soon as possible.** If there is a financial problem to cover the exam and treatment for which Medicaid or other state programs are not applicable, the Lions Club conducting the screening or NMLOKS, Inc., will assist with funds.



Child receiving eye exam.



Picture of child's eyes