



## **VISION SCREENING**

### **WHY is vision screening important?**

The first few years of a child's life are critical in the development of good vision. Children should have their vision checked for issues such as misaligned eyes, and problems that need correction with eyeglasses. These problems are not always evident by simply looking at a child. Young children often compensate for vision problems so well that parents, teachers, and pediatricians are unaware of a problem. Many common vision robbing conditions such as "lazy eye" can be effectively treated if detected in a child's formative years.

KidSight, a Lions Club community service program provides a simple, non-invasive and cost-free vision screening test performed on young children. It requires no medication or preparation and is PAINLESS. It does require parental permission.

KidSight screens for the following:

**Hyperopia** – "Far-sightedness" is the difficulty seeing objects that are near. Untreated this can contribute to "crossing of the eyes" but can be corrected with glasses.

**Myopia** – "Near-sightedness" is when the eyes focus incorrectly, making distant objects appear blurred. It can be treated with glasses.

**Astigmatism**- A condition in which the cornea has an abnormal curve causing out-of-focus vision.

**Anisometropia** – This condition can adversely affect the development of binocular vision in infants and children. The brain will often suppress the vision of the blurrier eye in a condition called Amblyopia or "lazy eye."

**Strabismus** – Eyes are not directed to an object simultaneously. Sometimes the eyes deviate outward and sometimes inward.



Your local Lions Club, with the Colorado Lions KidSight Program, will offer free vision screening at your child's school. The screening uses advanced technology and is very effective at finding the vision problems that could lead to lazy eye. The screening doesn't require us to touch your child and we don't use any eye drops or medicines. For more information, please visit our website [www.kidsightcolorado.org](http://www.kidsightcolorado.org).

If you would like your child screened **you don't need to do anything. If you don't wish to have your child screened** please sign and date this letter and return it to your child's school.

#### **WHY is vision screening important?**

The first few years of a child's life are vital in the development of good vision. Children should have their vision checked for issues such as eyes that don't line up together, and problems that need glasses. These problems are not always easy to see by simply looking at a child. Young children often adjust to vision problems so well that parents, teachers, and doctors don't realize there is a problem. Many common vision problems such as "lazy eye" can be treated if they are found in a child's early years.

#### **KidSight screens for the following:**

Far-sightedness (hyperopia) is when someone has a hard time seeing objects that are close to the eyes. If this problem is not treated it can lead to "crossing of the eyes" but it can be corrected with glasses.

Near-sightedness (myopia) – is when the eyes don't focus right, which makes objects that are faraway look blurry. It can be treated with glasses.

Astigmatism- is a condition in which the front surface of the eye (cornea) has an abnormal curve that causes blurry vision.

Anisometropia – is a condition where one of the eyes has poorer vision than the other. The brain will often shut down the vision signals from the blurrier (weak) eye in a condition called lazy eye (amblyopia).

Crossed Eyes (strabismus) – is a condition where the eyes muscles are not working together. Sometimes the eyes stray outward and sometimes inward.

**I do not wish to have my child's eyes screened.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date