



## Children's Vision Screening

The world is a feast of colors and shapes in the eyes of a child. Vision is our window to the world and is critical to our ability to learn. If a child does not see clearly, the world is a different place. Living and learning can be challenging when the world is out of focus. The Wisconsin Lions Foundation and Prevent Blindness Wisconsin, in partnership with your local Lions, Lioness and Leo clubs, provide free vision screenings at day care centers and preschools in communities throughout the state. You will also find us assisting public health and school nurses screening Wisconsin's school-age children.

### Some children are more likely to have eye problems:

- Premature birth
- Eye injury
- Family history of eye problems like:
  - Childhood cataracts
  - Childhood glaucoma
  - Amblyopia (*lazy eye*)
  - Misaligned eyes
  - Eye tumor

### Other signs of possible eye trouble include:

- Eyes don't line up, one eye appears crossed or looks out
- Eyelids are red-rimmed, crusted or swollen
- Eyes are watery or red (inflamed)

### If your child:

- Rubs eyes a lot
- Closes or covers one eye
- Tilts head or thrusts head forward
- Has trouble reading or doing other close-up work or holds objects close to eyes to see
- Blinks more than usual or seems cranky when doing close-up work
- Squints or frowns

### Your child tells you that he/she:

- Has blurred or double vision
- Cannot see well
- Is dizzy, has headaches or nausea when doing close-up work
- Has itchy, burning or scratchy eye

*If your child has one or more of these signs, have his/her vision examined by an eye doctor.*



cut & return

cut & return

cut & return

cut & return

*A free vision screening is being offered to your child. The screening will be done by a Lion or Lioness trained by Prevent Blindness Wisconsin.*

### I understand the following:

1. There is no charge to participate in the vision screening.
2. I will be contacted with the results.
3. The information obtained from this vision screening is to be considered a preliminary procedure only and does not constitute a diagnosis of vision problems. It should be part of a comprehensive eyecare program which includes periodic optometric/ophthalmological exams.
4. I understand that I am responsible for arranging for a full eye exam with an eyecare professional if my child has been referred as a result of the vision screening.
5. I understand that the organization conducting the screening will not be held accountable for any errors of commission, omission or other misdiagnosis.

**If you do not want your child screened, please sign and return this form.**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Male     Female

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Vision problems affect 1 in 20 preschool children and 1 in 4 school-age children.



Wisconsin Lions & Lioness

# 85%

of a child's learning process is sight-related

Good vision helps your child learn about the world. Problems with your child's sight can start at an early age.

Some of these problems can cause lasting damage to your child's sight if not found and treated early.

Vision develops and changes as your child grows. Taking care of your child's eyes from birth is part of helping your child grow and develop.

We recommend your child's vision be tested by an appropriately trained health care professional at:

- 6 – 12 months
- 3 – 4 years
- As your child grows
- Any time you suspect a vision problem or note symptoms of eye trouble

*Thank you for caring  
for your child's eyes*

Most eye problems can be corrected if they are detected and treated early. Appropriate eye care is essential for maintaining good vision. Some problems, if left untreated - even for a short period - can result in permanent vision loss.

**Amblyopia (Lazy Eye)** - is reduced vision in an eye that had not received adequate use during early childhood. The stronger eye takes on more of the job of seeing while the weak eye is used less. If the problem is untreated, the weak eye will be able to see less and less and vision gets worse. Untreated, this may lead to lifelong blindness in the weak eye. Children treated before age 3 have a very good chance of restoring sight. By the age of 6 or 7, your child's eyes are fully developed and amblyopia becomes much harder to treat.

**Strabismus** - occurs when eyes are not straight or do not line up with one another. The eye may turn in toward the nose (cross-eyed) or out toward the ear (wall-eyed) some or all of the time. This happens when the eye muscles do not work together. Untreated, this condition can lead to amblyopia.

**Myopia (Near-sightedness)** - If the eyeball is too long, distant objects will appear blurred.

**Hyperopia (Far-sightedness)** - If the eyeball is too short, near objects will appear blurred. In children, the lens accommodates for this error; this considerable effort causes fatigue and sometimes strabismus.

### *What does it mean if my child fails a screening?*

A failed screening is a signal that your child might have a vision problem. Following a failed screening, your child should have a complete eye exam by a trained health care professional to determine if there is a vision problem and possible treatment options.

## CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING

*Because We're Dedicated To Saving Sight*



*Contact your local Lions  
or Lioness Club if you are  
interested in scheduling a  
children's vision screening*

*or send an email to*

**info@lions-serve.org**