

What Is KidSight Outreach?

The goal of Tennessee Lions Charities and our KidSight Outreach vision screening program is to improve the vision of preschool-age children. Our KidSight Outreach vision screenings provide early detection of potential vision problems which are treatable before a child enters kindergarten, removing an obstacle that could have hampered the early stages of their educational, social, and personal development.

Over two decades ago, doctors at Vanderbilt University's Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences challenged the Lions of Tennessee to create a program geared toward providing vision screenings to young children. KidSight Outreach is the answer to that call.

Through our partnership with Vanderbilt University's Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, KidSight Outreach has become the standard for volunteer pediatric vision screening programs in the United States. For more than twenty years, KidSight Outreach has provided free vision screenings to the children of Tennessee between the ages of 12 and 72 months, ensuring that those children with potential vision problems do not begin school at a disadvantage because of an undiagnosed vision problem.

How Does KidSight Outreach Operate?

1. Our KidSight Outreach vision screenings are designed for young children and conducted in their environment: preschools, head start programs, daycare centers, etc.
2. Our KidSight Outreach vision screenings are conducted, maintained, and secured following HIPAA regulations.
3. Results are mailed to KSO offices at TN Lions State HQ. Here KSO staff catalogs data, maintains our HIPAA-compliant database, prepares results for parents and the school with definitions and detailed explanations of the program, and prepares referral packets for children who were referred.
4. KidSight Outreach results are returned to the school within 5 business days.
5. After a few months, our staff follows up with the parents of children who were referred. These follow-ups ensure that the parent is aware of the results. Our follow-ups ensure parents understand the importance of seeking treatment. We can also help parents find financial aid for the exam and treatment if needed.

Does KidSight Outreach Make a Difference?

In over 20 years of screening for potential vision problems, our volunteers have formed partnerships with educational leaders and daycare providers in their communities. Under the Lions banner, our KidSight Outreach program has become an essential part of the yearly curriculum for educators across Tennessee. We have provided free vision screenings to over 675,000 children in Tennessee. Of those children screened, over 40,000 have been referred for potential vision problems. A mother of a referred child from years ago and a current educator who still works with our KidSight Outreach program writes, ***"This is very near and dear to my heart, as our daughter was legally blind, and we did not know until she was almost three years old. We found out through her screening at her preschool. She is now a car-driving, basketball-playing sixteen-year-old with a pretty mean three-point shot! We are so thankful for the efforts of the Tennessee Lions and the service to our community!"***

KidSight Outreach vision screenings provide early detection of potential vision problems. Our trained Lions Club volunteers conduct screenings at no cost to the child or screening site. The vision screening instruments used in our KidSight Outreach vision screening program are calibrated to specifically detect **Amblyopia**, a problem that must be identified and treated at an early age to prevent low vision and/or blindness.

What Is Amblyopia?

Amblyopia occurs in early childhood and is the leading cause of decreased vision among children. Amblyopia is characterized as reduced vision in one eye caused by abnormal visual development early in life. When nerve pathways between the brain and the eye are not properly stimulated, the brain favors one eye over the other.

Symptoms include a wandering eye, eyes that may not appear to work together, or poor depth perception. Both eyes may be affected.

Our KidSight Outreach vision screenings also detect the following:

Strabismus: When the eyes are not directed to an object at the same time.

Anisometropia: A difference in the need for glasses between the two eyes.

Hyperopia: Far-sightedness.

Myopia: Near-sightedness.

Astigmatism: Unequal focusing of light rays as they enter the eye, causing a blurring of objects.

Media opacity: An object that prevents light from entering the back of the eye.

For more information about KidSight Outreach please visit our website.

www.TennesseeLionsCharities.org

