



Lions Screen Kids Sight

Opening Presentation

We are here to introduce you to the Lions School Vision Screening Program for Yavapai County, **Lions Screen Kids Sight**. In 2018 the Lions of Yavapai accepted a grant from the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) to help improve reading proficiency for better academic performance through the 4th grade, by reducing vision impairments using a sophisticated vision screener (photoscreener), that can detect several eye diseases and conditions including risk factors for Amblyopia. The Lions of Yavapai are offering free vision screenings for students in pre-K through fourth grade, using the Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener to elementary schools in Yavapai County. There is no cost to the school for this program.

Why Vision Screening

There is a state-wide initiative with the goal that 100% of third graders be proficient readers. This is a critical goal because studies show that third grade reading proficiency is a strong predictor of a child's future academic performance throughout high school and the likelihood of attending college. We are currently far from this goal.

Analysis of data from a local initiative in Yavapai County with the goal to improve literacy rates for students from pre-kindergarten through third grade, has revealed that a significant barrier to reading at grade level is unidentified vision impairment. Studies show that undetected and untreated childhood vision disorders can result in delayed reading and poorer outcomes in school. Other studies have confirmed that up to one in four school-age children have vision problems.

And, children rarely complain about vision problems. They believe everyone sees the world the way they do. According to Eyes on Learning Vision Coalition, 80% of children's learning is through their eyes. Thus, the detection and correction of unidentified vision impairments is a necessary component in a comprehensive strategy to improve reading proficiency.

Advantages of Photoscreening

The most effective vision screening methods for grades preK-4 utilize advanced vision screeners, also termed photoscreeners. In a white paper study done to determine the reliability of visual acuity screening performed by a lay screener, compared to a photoscreener operated by a lay screener, the results were dramatic. The conclusions of this study stated that the results from the photoscreener for ages 3-10 were significantly more reliable than the results from the acuity testing.

Photoscreeners can identify the risk factors for Amblyopia (Lazy Eye), which are not easily detectable by traditional vision screening techniques for younger children. The most common cause of vision loss in one eye for adults 20 - 70 years of age is untreated childhood amblyopia. Photoscreeners offer the additional advantage that they do not require the continued cooperation of the child being screened because the test takes only a few seconds.

Thus vision screening a school population with photoscreeners can take significantly less time than vision acuity screening using eye charts for younger children.

Simple, Safe

This screening process is accomplished by having a student sitting in a chair about three feet from a hand-held camera-like instrument and looking at the lens for a few seconds in a low light environment. No drops, special precautions, or physical contact with the child are required. The instrument evaluates the performance of the eyes and results read out on its screen. Lions note on an index card containing the student's name, whether their eyesight passes, or whether they should be referred for diagnosis of potential sight problems without further detail.. The children can be back to their normal schedule in minutes.

These marked index cards are given back to the school at the end of the event. Lions keep no information, other than the numbers screened, passed and referred. For students who pass, no further action is needed. For those students that are Referred, the school will communicate to parent or guardian that the screening indicates their child should be further examined by an eye care professional to investigate potential eye disorders

Lions also perform color testing during the vision screening event for kindergarten students, utilizing the color deficiency screening tool Color Vision Testing Made Easy, which consists of one demonstration card and nine "test" cards in a book. The result of color testing will also be marked the index cards.

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to fully discuss the program that was first introduced by the pre-meeting phone call and e-mailed documents. During the course of this meeting, documents will be reviewed that spell out the relationship between the Lions and the school and the tasks each will perform.

Reference Notes For Lion Presenter:

(Among these documents presented will be an MOU document that both parties will sign. This signing may follow a review by senior staff or legal advisor. (Usually after the meeting has ended). Once the program has been fully disclosed, the Spot Vision Screener can be demonstrated on adults if the lights in the room are reduced. The last steps are to tour the school and identify appropriate rooms for both vision screening and color testing.)