

About the MD5M Lions KidSight Foundation

MD5M Lions KidSight Foundation is part of the Lions Clubs International KidSight program to screen the vision of children ages six months and up.

Our primary target is children in the six months to six years old categories. These children are least likely to be screened for or detected to have vision problems. Unless these problems are detected early and corrected, they risk becoming permanent by age seven. Our program encompasses children through age 18, because experience has shown that even older children suffer from undetected vision problems.

Poor vision is an educational drawback. Educational experts report that 80 percent of learning is visual. If children can't see well, it is much more difficult for them to learn efficiently. Poor vision also impacts social interaction and extracurricular activities.

MD5M Lions KidSight is part of an international coalition that brings together Lions programs that screen preschool and school-aged children.

Our mission is to ensure that eye screenings and follow-up care are given to all kids. To do this we work with Lions to increase the number of screening programs around the country in order to reach more children when it is possible and where it is needed.

The Need Is Real

Anywhere from seven to 15 percent of kids screened will be referred for a follow-up exam by an eye-care professional. Approximately five percent of children in the 6-month to 6-year age group will have amblyopia, a treatable disorder that can result in permanently reduced vision when not addressed by an early age. The screening devices detect risk factors for amblyopia, such as strabismus (eyes that cross or wander out), anisometropia (refractive errors and unequal vision between the two eyes) and anisocoria which can be a sign of potentially more serious issues.

The devices also show signs of myopia (near-sightedness), hyperopia (far-sightedness), and astigmatism (blurry vision).

For any child needing a referral, a copy of the screening results will be given to the parents or guardians who are encouraged to take the child to an eye-care practitioner. Lions follow up to discover if children get the care they need.

Change a Life by Becoming a Vision Screener

With just a short training session, any Lion or volunteer can screen a child's vision. The screening devices used by KidSight do all the work for you. Results are immediate. It's easy, it's fun, and there is nothing more rewarding than helping a child.