Alamogordo Breakfast Lions Club Inc.
Operation KidSight™
Chuck Galusha Chairman 575-434-6296

Overview

We know that the eyes are the primary tools of learning and that 80% of what we learn is through our vision. The ability to learn has a tremendous impact on the development of a child. However, vision problems can interfere with school performance and adversely affect a child's development. It is estimated that nearly 25% of school-age children have vision problems. Additionally, some vision problems become permanent if they are not detected and treated at an early age. Unfortunately, only about one third of all children have had an eye examination or proper vision screening prior to entering school. We want to change that statistic.

There is growing emphasis in the Ophthalmic and Pediatric communities to encourage vision screening at as early an age as possible. The obvious need for widely used vision screening programs has led professional organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), and the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) to issue guidelines for screening preschool children. The goal of vision screening programs is the detection of amblyopia, reduced vision, strabismus, or other factors that may have a negative impact on childhood development.

The iScreen System was developed to address the need for early detection of vision problems. It has been used effectively in pediatric offices and in mass-screening pilot projects for the children in Head Start programs. This document describes our system, how it addresses the current need for vision screening, and presents a model for providing this valuable service to our children.

"It is estimated that nearly 25% of school-age children have vision problems... The earlier a vision problem is diagnosed and treated, the less the potential negative impact it may have on the child's development..."

American Optometric Association. *The need for comprehensive vision examination of preschool and school-age children*. St. Louis, MO, 1997.