

"How many times have you seen preschoolers lose their balance, look closely at an object, squint, or rub their eyes? Probably more often than you can count. Before you dismiss these behaviors, consider this: these may be symptoms of visual impairment. Unlike hearing, our sense of sight is not fully developed at birth. During the first few weeks of life, an infant's visual acuity is low and the infant can see only high-contrast objects (i.e., the eyes and mouth of an adult). Infant vision improves rapidly and by the age of six months, it is close to that of adults.

Vision plays a critical role in development during the first three years of life. Children use their sight to strengthen motor functions, establish parent-child bonding, build picture perception and gain their balance.

Because visual impairment can have a detrimental impact on a child's development, a growing number of eye doctors are now advocating that young children be screened for vision problems long before they enter school. At this early age, a child's visual system is still malleable. Therefore, the sooner a vision problem is detected, the more likely it can be corrected."¹

Our program is here to alert you to any vision problems that may lead to Amblyopia. Amblyopia is treatable if you catch it early and start treatment as soon as possible. If your child has amblyogenic conditions, the longer it is left untreated the harder it is for your child to conquer.

¹Partial Reprint from: www.schoolhealth.com

Our Mision

The mission of Lions SEE, Inc. (Screening Eyes Early) is to decrease childhood blindness through early detection and treatment of the most common vision disorders that cause Amblyopia; insuring that all children of New York State will be able to SEE their future.

Lions SEE, Inc.
at the
Ross Eye Institute
1176 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14209
Phone: (716) 881-7915
Fax: (716) 887-2991
www.lionsSEE.org



LIONS SEE

"Screening Eyes Early"



SPIKE

Lions SEE, Inc.
at the
Ross Eye Institute

Screening by your community's
Lions Club for primary
vision disorders in children

A Free Service To Our Community

Message to Parents...

The Lions Clubs in New York State have launched a special program to screen children for vision problems that can lead to Amblyopia. The program focuses on preschool children



between the ages of 1 and 5. The trained volunteers from your community's local Lions Clubs will screen your children's eyes with either a special Polaroid™ camera or the

Welch-Allen SureSight™ Vision Screener with the results sent to the Lions SEE main office at the Ross Eye Institute in Buffalo. (The volunteer does not diagnose vision problems.) If a problem is detected, Lions SEE will contact you through the screening site, and send a "To Do" packet to help you seek professional care.



The screening is a free community service project that is financially supported by your local Lions Clubs and a special grant from Lions Clubs International.



If your child has not yet seen an eye doctor, let us screen your child's eyes.



What Is Amblyopia?

Amblyopia, commonly known as "lazy eye", is the eye condition noted by reduced vision **not correctable** by glasses or contact



lenses and is not due to any eye disease. When one eye is better than the other, the child will begin to stop using the weaker

eye. The brain, for some reason, does not fully acknowledge the images seen by the amblyopic eye. This almost always affects only one eye but may manifest with reduction of vision in both eyes. It is estimated that three percent of children under six have some form of amblyopia.

Amblyopia can be caused by a number of different vision problems.

- **Strabismus** – When the eyes are not aligned properly; crossed eyes.
- **Hyperopia** - Farsightedness.
- **Media Opacity** - object preventing light from entering eye (e.g. cataract).
- **Anisometropia** - difference in the vision between the eyes.
- **Myopia** - Nearsightedness.
- **Ptosis** - drooping eyelid.
- **Astigmatism** - blurring caused by unequal curvature of the cornea.

Are there any risks in the screening procedure?

The Vision-screening procedure is safe and noninvasive. No device comes in contact



with your child. No eye drops and no puff of air are used. The volunteer Lion holds the device in front of your child, using the screening device

like a camera. The procedure is comfortable for your child and convenient for you.

How reliable is the screening process?

The technique is approximately 85- 90% effective in detecting problems that may lead to amblyopia. It is more reliable than the standard tests a pediatrician performs for a young child. Children under five (5) cannot reliably read an eye chart. This is a screening procedure and does not substitute for a complete eye exam.



Contact Your Local Lions Club listed on the back for More Information or Call Jennifer, our Program Administrator at Lions SEE, Inc.at: **(716) 881-7915**