

Vision Screening for Preschool Children



Helping Kids See Clearly Into the Future

Screening of children in the Pre-K Classes for possible vision problems has become an important community service. Prevention of blindness and serious eye disorders is the primary focus of the Severn River Lions Club.

Amblyopia

Amblyopia is the medical term for "lazy eye" - an eye that is not working the way it should. In children, conditions leading to *Amblyopia* are not usually diagnosed or treated until the child reaches school age. But it is well established that treatment should begin before the age of six.

Amblyopia affects about 3% to 5% of all American children. If left untreated, it can result in severe loss of vision in one eye. Lions Clubs are committed to helping those children avoid permanent loss of vision.

There are multiple eye conditions that lead to *Amblyopia* and the vision screening tests conducted by trained volunteer Lions are 85-90% effective in finding these vision problems in their early stages.

Lions Preschool Vision Screening Program

Since 1925 the Lions have been dedicated to programs that conserve sight and assist the vision impaired. The Severn River Lions offer **free** vision screening for preschool children at a variety of events.

Volunteer Lions using a sophisticated digital device check for refractive errors in each eye and then perform a separate test to evaluate the child's stereoscopic vision. Tests are fast and painless and the results are given to the parents immediately after the testing.



These screening tests are not a substitute nor are they as effective as a complete eye examination conducted by an eye care professional. Lions encourage such examinations when children's test results indicate potential problems. Indeed, Lions encourage routine thorough eye examinations for everyone.

