

## **For Immediate Release.**

The Lions Clubs of Vigo County, and “**Local Daycare/Preschool**” , are offering a free vision screening to all children 6 months of age up through 5 years. The free vision screening will be held at “**Local Daycare/Preschool site**” on:

### **“Day, Date, & Time”**

This vision screening is a free program sponsored by the Lions Clubs of Vigo County, the Indiana Lions Eye and Tissue Transplant Bank, Inc. and the Indiana University Department of Ophthalmology under the supervision of pediatric ophthalmologist Daniel E. Neely M.D.

The first few years of a child's life are critical in the development of normal vision. A child with vision problems often does not know that the way they see the world is not the way everyone else sees it. Vision deficiencies in a child's eyes are not always obvious and it is estimated that 3-4 % of children may have occult vision loss from undetected amblyopia or what is commonly referred to as “lazy eye”. If some problems are not detected early, a child's vision may deteriorate to the point of irreversible blindness. Other research indicates that 70-80% of what a child learns is visually acquired and there is evidence to suggest that children with undetected vision disorders are more likely to fail in school.

For the preschool children, Operation KidSight screeners use the PediaVision SO-8 screening system. The volunteer takes a digital measurement of the child's eyes from a comfortable distance of three feet. Pass/refer criteria for the screening systems are set using guidelines established by the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus as modified by Dr. Neely. Invisible, infrared light is projected through the pupils onto the retina. Depending on the refractive error or “prescription” of the eye, the reflected light forms a specific brightness pattern within the pupil which the software analyzes to detect astigmatism, myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness) and anisometropia (imbalance between the two eyes). It also performs a gaze analysis to help detect strabismus (eye misalignment), amblyopia and anisocoria (difference in the size of the pupils). Perhaps the most amazing thing is that all of this information can be acquired and assessed in as little as five seconds.

Thanks for caring about your child's precious gift of vision.

Lion Raymond Collins  
Riley Twp. Lions Club