

In cooperation with the Indiana Lions Eye & Tissue Transplant Bank, the (insert your club name) will be offering a free Operation KidSight vision screening for children ages 18 months through 6 years on (insert date, place and time).

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 realize that the way they see the world is not the way everyone else sees it. Vision abnormalities in a child's eyes may occur even when the eye appears to look normal.

It is estimated that 3-4% of children may have vision loss from undetected amblyopia or what is commonly referred to as "lazy eye". Amblyopia is decreased vision in a child that results when one or both eyes send a blurry image to the brain. The brain does not learn to see clearly. If problems are not detected early, a child's vision may deteriorate to the point of irreversible blindness. 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.

In order to be screened, a child must be old enough to fixate (to look at a flashing light on the camera). This is typically possible after one year of age. The screening is targeted at children who are pre-verbal and who may not be able to describe to parents, teachers or doctors the fact that they do not have perfect vision. There are other tests, such as reading an eye chart, that are generally better for children over 5 years of age. Remember that the eyes are fully developed by age 6 and any screening and testing problems found after age 6 may be discovered too late for medical treatment.

For more information on Operation KidSight or to schedule a screening, please contact Janice Chapman, Operation KidSight Coordinator, at 317-578-0491 or by visiting the website at www.iletbtb.org.