



Information and Protocols Training

2023/2024 School Year

What Is KidSight Outreach?

The goal of Tennessee Lions Charities and our KidSight Outreach vision screening program is to improve the vision of preschool-age children. Our KidSight Outreach vision screenings provide early detection of potential vision problems which are treatable before a child enters kindergarten, removing an obstacle that could have hampered the early stages of their educational, social, and personal development.

Over two decades ago, doctors at Vanderbilt University's Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences challenged the Lions of Tennessee to create a program geared toward providing vision screenings to young children. KidSight Outreach is the answer to that call.

Through our partnership with Vanderbilt University's Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, KidSight Outreach has become the standard for volunteer pediatric vision screening programs in the United States. For more than twenty years, KidSight Outreach has provided free vision screenings to the children of Tennessee between the ages of 12 and 72 months, ensuring that those children with potential vision problems do not begin school at a disadvantage because of an undiagnosed vision problem.

How Does KidSight Outreach Operate?

1. Lions Club volunteers conduct screenings in their community's daycares, preschools, and Head Start centers.
2. Results are mailed to KSO offices at TN Lions State HQ. Here KSO staff catalogs data, maintains our HIPAA-compliant database, prepares results for parents and the school with detailed explanations of the program, and prepares referral packets for children who were referred which explain the referral process and the importance of seeking treatment.
3. KidSight Outreach results are returned to the school within five business days.
4. 3-4 months after the results have been returned KSO staff begins following up with the children who were referred. These follow-ups ensure that the parent is aware of the result, ensures the parent understands the importance of the screening, and ensures that the parent can afford the exam and treatment. If not, our staff helps parents find funding for treatment through local Lions Clubs.

Does KidSight Outreach Make a Difference?

In over 20 years of screening for potential vision problems, our volunteers have formed partnerships with educational leaders and daycare providers in their communities. Under the Lions banner, our KidSight Outreach program has become an essential part of the yearly curriculum for educators across Tennessee. We have provided free vision screenings to **over 674,000** children in Tennessee. Of those children screened, **over 39,000** have been referred for potential vision problems.

“I just want you to know how thankful I am for your program! My son had had his vision checked at his doctor's appointment the previous summer and passed that exam. We had no idea he was struggling with his vision! The fact that he was able to get glasses before starting kindergarten (and baseball season!) was very beneficial to him. Thank you SO MUCH!! I'm a speech-language pathologist for the school system. I serve in an elementary school and head start, so I've seen your program at work for years! I was thrilled to know that you were going to be doing screenings at my son's preschool as well.”

– Caroline Allen, mother and educator.

KidSight Outreach vision screenings provide early detection of potential vision problems. Our trained Lions Club volunteers conduct screenings at no cost to the child or screening site. The vision screening instruments used in our KidSight Outreach vision screening program are calibrated to specifically detect **Amblyopia**, a problem that must be identified and treated at an early age to prevent low vision and/or blindness.

What Is Amblyopia?

Amblyopia occurs in early childhood and is the leading cause of decreased vision among children. Amblyopia is characterized as reduced vision in one eye caused by abnormal visual development early in life. When nerve pathways between the brain and the eye are not properly stimulated, the brain favors one eye over the other.

Symptoms include a wandering eye, eyes that may not appear to work together, or poor depth perception. Both eyes may be affected.

Our KidSight Outreach vision screenings also detect the following:

Strabismus: When the eyes are not directed to an object at the same time.

Anisometropia: A difference in the need for glasses between the two eyes.

Hyperopia: Far-sightedness.

Myopia: Near-sightedness.

Astigmatism: Unequal focusing of light rays as they enter the eye, causing a blurring of objects.

Media opacity: An object that prevents light from entering the back of the eye.

For more information about KidSight Outreach please visit our website.

www.TennesseeLionsCharities.org



KidSight Outreach Vision Screening Protocols – 2023/2024 School Year

I. Current Consent Forms Should be Used

- a. Please use the most recent version of the KidSight Outreach consent forms.
 - i. June 2021 is the current consent form.
 1. *This form includes an email contact option which has greatly increased our follow-up productivity.*
 2. ***This form also directs parents to contact our website for questions and referral information.***
 - ii. *English, Spanish, & Arabic forms were attached along with this document for your convenience.*
 - iii. Screening teams may request consent forms by email - arthurwilhoite@tnlions.com
 - iv. Or visit our website to download them as well - www.tennesseeelionscharities.org/consentforms
- b. **Please ensure that each child's consent form has been signed before screening.**
- c. We cannot process consent forms that are missing signatures.
- d. Please DO NOT indicate the result of the screening at the bottom of the consent form. KidSight Outreach staff are required to indicate the results, even if your screening team has already done so. Two indications can be confusing when results are returned to parents.

II. KidSight Outreach Cover Sheet

- a. **Ensure that email addresses have been provided for the contact at the screening site and the Lions Club contact.**
 - i. Sending results back via email is a cost-saving measure and greatly increases our rate of turnaround.
 - ii. Being able to reach the screening site contact is also immensely helpful to our follow-up efforts for referred children.
- b. **Only one club should be listed on the cover sheet.**
 - i. The KSO cover sheet is how we track all of the KidSight Outreach data per club.
 - ii. If two clubs work together on a screening, please divide the screenings by club before sending the consent forms to our KidSight Outreach offices.
 - iii. This is the only way to ensure that your club receives proper credit in our reports and LCI's KidSight USA database.

III. Safety Measures

- a. All screeners should adhere to the safety guidelines set by the school/screening site they are visiting.
- b. There should be no contact with the children.
- c. A teacher or staff member should be present at all times.

IV. Mail Screenings to KidSight Outreach Offices

- a. Please mail all KidSight Outreach screenings to our offices at Tennessee Lions Charities, Inc.
Tennessee Lions Charities, Inc.
505 Fesslers Lane
Nashville, TN 37210
- b. Please send in the consent forms, attached results, and cover sheet from your screenings **within a week after the screening date.** Our staff processes and returns screening results promptly. The faster that results are sent to our offices the faster they are returned to the screening site.

V. Screening Instrument Printouts

- a. **If a child is uncooperative or refuses to focus on the camera, do not print a result.**
 - i. We will treat the lack of cooperation as an unreadable result.
- b. **Attach a result printout to every consent form when the child is cooperative.**
 - i. If a child is cooperative and focuses on the camera, but no measurable result is found after three attempts, still attach a printout – preferably multiple examples of no measurable result (2-3).
 - ii. We cannot assume the liability of passing or referring a child without a printout attached to the consent form.
 - iii. Consent forms without an attached printout will be marked **UNREADABLE**.
- c. **Please ensure that the results have been printed fully before attaching the printout.**
 - i. Result labels not fully printed will be marked UNREADABLE.

VI. Screening Instrument Settings

- a. Please ensure that your screening instrument is set to the appropriate age group and referral criteria – ROC4 for PlusoptiX vision screeners.

VII. What Constitutes an Unreadable Result?

- a. Consent forms without a result printout.
- b. Incomplete printouts.
- c. Handwritten results.
- d. Indications that the child is uncooperative/would not look at screening the instrument.

VIII. Children Older than 72 Months or Younger than 12 months

- a. Our program is designed for children within the age range of 12 months to 72 months.
- b. We have received funding based on these parameters. As a result, only children within that age range can be counted in our official numbers.
- c. Children outside of our age range that are screened will still be processed and still receive the full benefits of the KidSight Outreach program. However, they cannot be credited to our official totals.
- d. **Children outside of our age range should be the exception, not the rule.**
 - i. We cannot devote time and resources to screenings that consist mostly of children more than two years beyond the KidSight Outreach parameters of 12-72 months. The results from screenings held for elementary grades beyond kindergarten (1st – 6th grade), middle schools, and high schools should not be sent to KidSight Outreach offices. These educational levels do not fall within the mission of our KidSight Outreach vision screening program.

Please direct any questions or requests for screening materials – coversheets, consent forms, & stickers to KidSight Outreach staff at Tennessee Lions Charities, Inc.

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Financial Support for Tennessee Lions Charities and KidSight Outreach

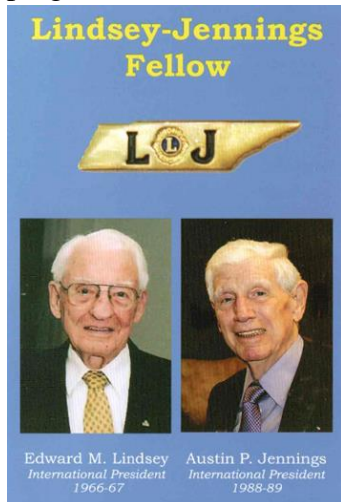
Tennessee Lions Charities' mission is to serve the children and families of Tennessee. Our KidSight Outreach vision screening program provides early detection of potential vision problems which are treatable before a child enters kindergarten, removing an obstacle that could delay or alter the early stages of their educational, social, and personal development.

Thanks to over two decades of volunteer service by the Lions of Tennessee, hundreds of thousands of children have started their lives without potential vision problems going unnoticed. However, screening is just the first step in KidSight Outreach's process. Unlike other screening programs, TLC's KidSight Outreach staff dedicates thousands of hours to the follow-up process for children referred by screenings. In 2021, our Productive Follow-up Rate was 90%! Visiting delegates from Lions Clubs International have commented that Tennessee Lions Charities' KidSight Outreach vision screening program's follow-up protocols are the most thorough of any screening program they have observed or discussed.

While KidSight Outreach offers local clubs an opportunity to volunteer in their community, there is a cost associated with KidSight Outreach. The average cost of screening a child is \$5.75, a small price to pay to ensure that a child can begin their education without a vision problem going unnoticed. We could not dedicate ourselves to KidSight Outreach without the support of our local Lions Clubs and the leaders of Tennessee's Lions Club community. If your club participates in KidSight Outreach, please consider donating to support TLC and KidSight Outreach so that Tennessee's program can continue to outshine the rest of the nation.

How Can You or Your Lions Club Support Tennessee Lions Charities and KidSight Outreach?

Tennessee Loins Charities has two fundraisers in place to support our KidSight Outreach vision screening program.



The Lindsey Jennings Fellowship is the highest honor that the Lions of Tennessee use to recognize individuals who have demonstrated their unselfish service to mankind.

Edward Lindsey and Austin Jennings were instrumental in establishing one of the first dedicated pediatric vision screening programs in the world. Tennessee's KidSight Outreach vision screening program was used as an example for years as Lions in other states began to develop their interests in serving preschool children.

With each \$1,000 donated to Tennessee Lions Charities, an individual can be named a Lindsey-Jennings Fellow. Applications are available on our website.

<https://www.tennesseelionscharities.org/ljf>

A new fundraiser to support the KidSight Outreach vision screening program is the KidSight Outreach Sustaining Donor Initiative. This program allows individual Lions to make smaller monthly donations to continuously support KidSight Outreach.

Members of the KSOSDI earn a unique Lions pin each year they are a member, and their donations will eventually earn an LJF as well!

More information can be found on our website's home page.

