



7120 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Place  
 Gainesville, FL 32605

## KidSight Factsheet

### What it is....

KidSight is a FREE vision screening program administered by the Florida KidSight Foundation and Lions Club volunteers to detect vision problems that can cause Amblyopia (lazy eye) in children between the ages of 1 and 6 years old.

### Why the screening is necessary....

The first few years of a child’s life are critical in the development of good vision. Preschoolers should have their vision checked for issues such as misaligned eyes and problems that are correctable with eyeglasses. These problems are not always evident by simply looking at a child. Young children often compensate for vision problems so well that parents, teachers, and pediatricians are unaware of a problem. By the time a child is old enough to be in primary grades, many of these common vision-robbing conditions can no longer be effectively treated. Amblyopia can develop when an undetected vision problem goes untreated during a child’s formative years. If not treated, it can lead to poor academic performance (80% of a child’s learning comes through his/her visual system), low self-esteem, limited social and sports involvement and behavioral problems (7 out of 10 juvenile delinquents have an undiagnosed vision problem). One in twenty children is estimated to have some degree of amblyopia. Fortunately, visual improvement is possible if problems that cause amblyopia are detected and treated early; typically, prior to age six. Doctors treat amblyopia with glasses, patching, exercises, and/or surgery. Sadly, many children with amblyopia are not identified because of a lack of good screening programs. The KidSight program is a proven method of screening and referring children for problems that cause amblyopia.

### How it’s Done....

Local Lions Club volunteers use a state-of-art Plusoptix photo-screening unit to make an image of a child’s eyes. The unit produces a picture and measurement of a child’s eyes and classifies the reading as either a “pass” or “refer.”

### Participation Process....

To participate in the KidSight screening program, a parent or guardian must sign the Consent Form and return it to the Preschool/Childcare Director. Once the Director has signed the Consent Forms for the subject children, the Lions Club volunteers will come on site and conduct the screening. After a child is screened, the Consent Form is marked as either “passed” or referred” and it is given to Director for return to the parent/guardian. Screening results classified as referred are sent to the Florida KidSight Foundation office for further review and follow-up. The KidSight office will communicate directly with the parent/guardian to ensure the appropriate correction action is implemented.

### Causes of Amblyopia...

1. Misaligned eyes, crossed eyes (Strabismus)
2. High degrees of nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism in both eyes (Anisometropia)
3. Vision obstruction disorders like.... congenital cataract, a drooping eyelid (Deprivational)

### Informational Videos (Available on the internet)

Subject	Address
Describes how Amblyopia (lazy eye) develops in Children	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kHCHvFhzWc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kHCHvFhzWc</a>
Explanation of Amblyopia, what it is, how it can be treated and how it can be eliminated	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-RCvBRKwew">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-RCvBRKwew</a>