

I Can See Clearly Now: Healthy Vision Awareness



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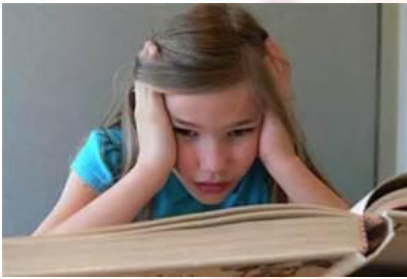
Statement of Problem

- ❑ Without a solid proficiency in reading by the third grade, a student most likely has not developed a solid foundation required to successfully advance through the education system.
- ❑ Undetected vision problems can adversely impact reading ability and proficiency.
- ❑ A significant number of students from Pre-K through 3rd grade have vision problems that go undetected or, if detected, are never treated.

What then can be done to enhance the awareness of healthy vision such that all young students are able to see and read/learn well resulting in them successfully advancing in school?

Introduction - Children's Vision Facts

- ❑ Statistics for a child entering 1st grade
 - ✓ 86% have never had an eye exam
 - ✓ 20-25% will have a vision problem
 - ✓ Reading/learning problem → 70% chance a vision problem



- ❑ Children's perception of their vision
 - ✓ Everyone sees like they do
 - ✓ Vision disorders don't hurt
 - ✓ Parents may not realize their child has a vision problem

- ❑ Children's vision development
 - ✓ Completed by age 7-8
 - ✓ Vision problems if not detected can cause possibly amblyopia and/or detrimentally impact a child's ability to learn
 - ✓ Normal visual development proceeds only if the brain receives an EQUALLY CLEAR image from EACH EYE



Introduction - What is Healthy Vision?



**HEALTHY VISION = GOOD EYESIGHT
+ GOOD FUNCTIONAL VISION SKILLS**

Good/Normal Vision → Ability to see clearly at any distance,
either uncorrected or corrected (e.g., glasses, contacts)

Good Functional Vision Skills → Ability for the eyes and
brain to sufficiently track, focus, team and clearly
perceive/recognize when reading

Introduction - Relationship Between Healthy Vision & Learning

- ❑ Childhood from birth to seven years old
 - ✓ The most important developmental period of life
 - ✓ The foundation upon which future academic success is established

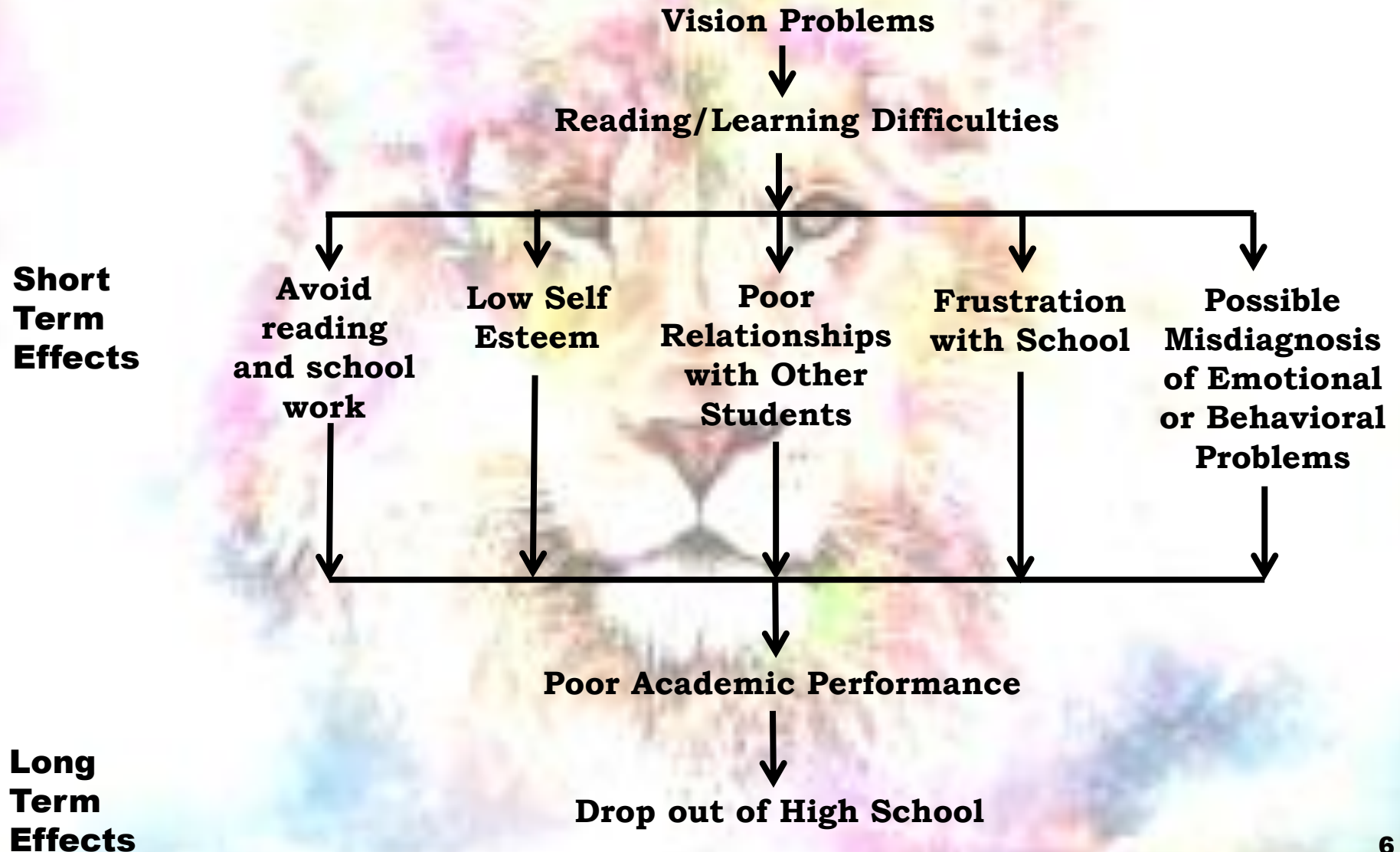


- ❑ Vision and learning are very closely related.
 - ✓ About 80% of what a child learns in school is information that is presented visually



Healthy vision is essential for students to be able to read and learn well and reach their full academic potential

Introduction - Impact of Unresolved Children's Vision & Learning Problems



Current Situation

- ❑ “Undiagnosed and uncorrected eye and vision problems in children are a significant public health concern.”

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM)

- ❑ 35% to 40% of NM children screened by NM Lions Operation KidSight who are referred for possibly having a vision problem never receive a comprehensive eye exam.

- ❑ “Why are the percentages of non-adherence by parents to get their children the vision care they need so high? There are three types of barriers to vision care for children:

Financial. Many families do not have vision insurance and cannot afford to take their children to see eye-care professionals or pay for glasses.

Planning. Logistical issues include transportation to the doctor’s office, child care for other family members, and taking time off work, especially when the caretaker works in a low-skilled job for an hourly wage.

Priority. In some cases, families often view vision care as an expense that can be deferred. In other cases, parents simply do not believe that their children have vision problems.”

American Optometric Association

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- KidSight Screening for Vision Problems -

NM Lions Operation KidSight, Inc.

KidSight Central Office
Program Manager - Ms. Brenda Dunn
Las Cruces, NM

25 Lions Screening Teams
across NM

Screen 3-7 year old children
for amblyogenic risk factors

Provides eye exams/glasses for 3-7
year old students not covered by
Medicaid or insurance

Currently servicing public schools,
Head Starts, private/charter
schools, child care centers, and
health fairs across NM





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- KidSight Screening for Vision Problems -

Advantages of Vision Screening KidSight Teams

- ✓ May free up school nurses from time spent for required annual acuity screening - more time for referral follow up
- ✓ Very quick - acquisition time can be as fast as 1 second.
- ✓ Can refract through glasses to check present prescriptions.
- ✓ Can easily screen developmentally challenged & nonverbal children.
- ✓ Conventional acuity testing (Snellen Chart) identifies only about 30% of the children with a vision problem.

2016/17 Vision Screening and Follow-Up Results

- ✓ 40,149 children screened; 8,163 referred for eye exam.
- ✓ 35-40% of referred children never received an eye exam.
- ✓ 110 children without any coverage received an eye exam and/or glasses at a cost of \$15,353.

The best defense is early detection!

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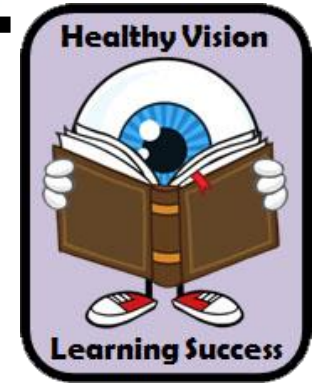
- Save Our Children's Sight Fund Voucher Program -

- ❑ **When Started:** 1 Jan 2008 based on NM Statute Authority 666.3..
- ❑ **How Funded:** NM residents can donate \$1 or \$5 when renewing vehicle registration.
- ❑ **Management of Fund:**
 - ✓ NMDOH provides oversight of the fund administration
 - ✓ NMLOKS, Inc., contracted to administer the Fund through 2020-21.
- ❑ **Purpose of Fund:** To fund the development and implementation of a vision screening program making vision screenings and follow-up comprehensive examinations available to NM children regardless of family income.
- ❑ **Voucher Eligibility:** Students not covered by Medicaid or insurance.
- ❑ **Scope of Coverage:** NMLOKS Inc., covers 3-7 year old students while SOCSF covers 8-18 year old students.
- ❑ **Administration Strategy:**
 - ✓ NMLOKS, Inc., Program Manager and school nurses identify 3-18 year students who have been referred by nurse's or KidSight screenings and who are not covered by Medicaid or other insurance.
 - ✓ Voucher for eye exam and glasses issued for students who qualify.
 - ✓ NMLOKS, Inc., Program Manager coordinates with school nurses to provide the contact information for the closest network eye doctor to share with the parent(s) to schedule their child's appointment for services.








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- Parents Education Program -



- ❑ **Current Situation:** 35% to 40% of referred children from KidSight screenings never see an eye doctor regardless of how many times the school nurses call their parents.
- ❑ **Cause of Situation:** Many parents do not realize the importance of their child being able to see well to learn well.
- ❑ **Solution:** Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, the parents of each referred child in the state received an impressive folder with a copy of the screening results certificate and information explaining how important it is for their child to get an eye exam is included inside.
- ❑ **Intended Result:** It is envisioned the program will encourage more parents of referred children get them the vision services they need.

<p>IMPORTANT IMPORTANTE</p>  <p>INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S VISION</p> <p>INFORMACIÓN ACERCA DE LA VISIÓN DE SU HIJO</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div>	<p>HAVE QUESTIONS:</p> <p>Call: 575-525-5631 Fax: 575-524-1699 Email: nmlionskidsight@gmail.com Visit: www.nmlionskidsight.com</p> 	<p>YOUR CHILD SHOULD VISIT AN EYE DOCTOR SU NIÑO DEBE VISITAR A UN OCULISTA!</p> <p>Does your child see like this and you don't even know? Sabe su hijo ver como esta y no incluso?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  -VS-  </div>	<p>Or if they are farsighted...like this! O si son clarividentes... como esta!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>Or nearsighted ...like this! O miope.... como esta!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>New Mexico Lions Operation Kidsight, Inc. Brenda Dunn, Program Manager 1501 North Solano Drive Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-525-5631 FAX: 575-524-1699 Email: nmlionskidsight@gmail.com</p> </div> </div>
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- Teachers & Parents Vision Problem Identification -

□ Teachers and Parents

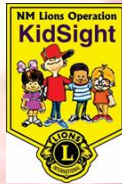
- ✓ Spend a lot of time with the children for whom they are responsible
- ✓ Should be able to identify warning signs that a child may have a vision problem
- ✓ Symptoms of children's vision problems:

Headache or eye strain when reading	Eyes are sensitive to light
Blurred vision	Eyes frequently tear up
Dislike or avoidance of reading/home work	Receives lower grades than normal
Short attention span during visual tasks	Squints or tilts head to see the board better
Eyelid that covers part of the pupil	Uses finger as a guide when reading
Placing the head very close to the book or desk when reading or writing	Difficulty remembering, identifying or reproducing shapes
Excessive blinking or rubbing the eyes	Poor eye-hand coordination
Frequently loses their place when reading	Slow reading speed
Poor reading comprehension	Difficulty remembering what was read
Has eyes that look mismatched or crossed or that don't move together.	Turning or tilting the head to use one eye only, or closing or covering one eye

- ✓ Vision problem symptom noticed by a teacher → notify school nurse immediately
- ✓ Vision problem symptom noticed by a parent → get child an eye exam immediately
- ✓ Lions vision screening teams now provide teachers with a list of their students who did not pass the vision screening so they can work with the parents to get them an eye exam

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- Smart Parents Contest -



ENTER TO WIN!!!



You have 30 days from today to enter!

Take your child to the eye doctor for their recommended dilated eye exam and enter to win \$50!

The drawing will be held on the 20th of each month.

Entries must be received by the 15th of each month to be entered!

A copy of the exam results are required with entry form!

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

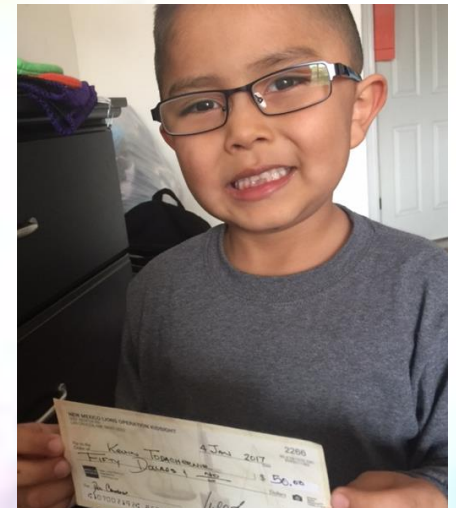
Scan Your Entry Form and Child's Exam Results and Email them to: nmlionskidsight@gmail.com or

Mail to: NMLOKS 1501 N. Solano Drive

Las Cruces 88001



- ☐ Monthly contest is an incentive for parents to take their referred children to get an eye exam.
- ☐ Once a parent takes their child for an eye exam, they fill out the contest form in the parental folder and submit it to the NMLOKS Central Office and they are eligible to win \$50 if their name is drawn.



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- Spare Pair Program -

- ❑ Many times during a vision screening session, a student is referred who has glasses but never (or infrequently) brings them to school.
- ❑ Spare Pair Program purchases a pair of glasses for these students which remains at school.
- ❑ Spare Pair Program being funded by: GoFundMe Campaign
<https://www.gofundme.com/SPAREPAIRPROGRAM>
- ❑ Spare Pair Program will help ensure that every student who needs glasses is able to see well to enhance their learning ability.



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- Students Vision Problem Identification Program -

- ❑ Special educational programs for young children to empower them to achieve healthy vision.
- ✓ *Red's Big Day*, a story about a Dad bird trying to teach his young son to fly through hoops. Son has problems seeing the hoops. Once the Dad understands his son has a vision problem, the son gets an eye exam and glasses after which he can fly perfectly.
- ✓ Kaptain KidSight and Eyeris - KidSight action heroes who go to the schools to inform students how important their vision is to them to be able to read and learn well. Also the importance of being at school the day of the scheduled vision screenings and wearing their glasses if they have them is stressed.



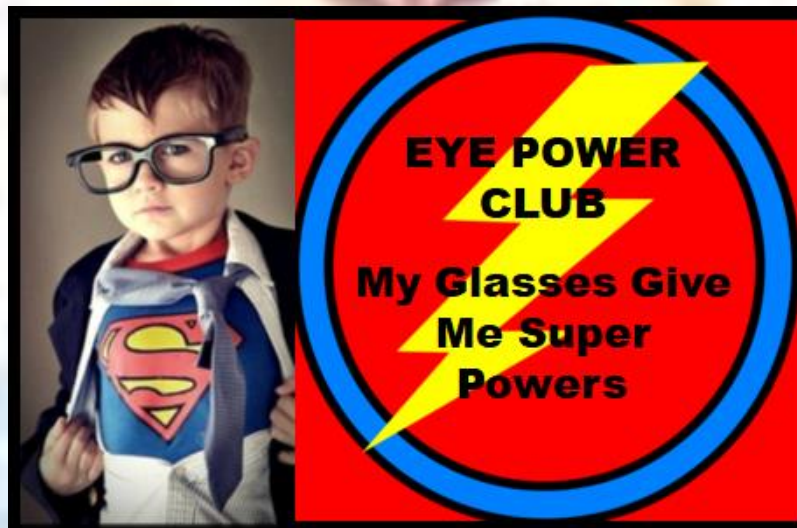
Kaptain
KidSight
Eyeris



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- Eye Power Clubs -

- ☐ Many times children get glasses but do not wear them for various reasons
- ☐ Mission is to encourage all K, 1st and 2nd grade children with glasses to wear them
- ☐ The KidSight Program will work with teachers and nurses to start Eye Power Clubs in NM elementary schools
- ☐ Children who have just gotten their glasses and wear them every day for two weeks will be recognized with a certificate and prize
- ☐ Goal is ensure that young children who need glasses feel comfortable wearing them and realize the “power” it gives them to read and learn



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Mobile Vision Service Program – A Future Initiative

- ☐ A good number of students live in small remote communities in NM
- ☐ Vision services are often a considerable distance from these communities which may be a deterrent for parents of referred students to get them an eye exam
- ☐ A significant number of parents of referred children in communities with local vision services refuse to get them an eye exam
- ☐ A mobile vision services van would provide a comprehensive eye exam for referred students who otherwise would not receive one
- ☐ Funds from the KidSight and SOCSF Programs could be used to pay optometrists to conduct the eye exams in the van
- ☐ Glasses frames could be fitted the day of the exam and students could have their glasses in a week



In Conclusion.....

❑ Where we are:

- ✓ **NM Lions Operation KidSight Program**
 - **Over 40,000 NM children screened during 2018-19 school year**
- ✓ **NMLOKS and SOCSF voucher program**
 - **Over 500 3-18 year old students received eye exams and/or glasses during 2018-19 school year**
- ✓ **NMLOKS Healthy Vision Initiatives**
 - **Resulted in significant drop in number of referred students who did not receive an eye exam**
 - **Children with glasses encouraged to wear them**

❑ What's next:

- ✓ **Expand vision screening program to include communities not currently covered**
- ✓ **Expand Healthy Vision Awareness initiatives to cover entire state**
- ✓ **Develop new initiatives to enhance healthy vision awareness**