



Preschool Vision Screening Training

Need:

Vision is the primary sense used for learning in the early years. Approximately 80 percent of what a child learns is learned visually. Early detection and treatment of vision disorders are important to maximize a child's visual potential. The longer eye conditions are left untreated, the more likely they are to worsen, affecting learning ability, athletic performance and self esteem.

Young children who lack the benefits of having good vision also do not have the appropriate social and academic readiness skills that are of utmost importance for success in school. Children who cannot see clearly face great obstacles as they are developing reading readiness skills and are beginning to develop socialization and play skills.

Children under the age of six who do not receive proper and regular vision screenings and eye examinations are at risk of facing a lifetime of vision loss due to several common and correctable visual difficulties. Amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (crossed eyes), if not detected and treated early enough, can cause loss of vision. Fortunately, if these diseases are detected and treated before the age of six, their blinding effects can be reversed, often with fairly simple treatment (i.e. covering the "good" eye with a patch to force the "lazy" eye to be used.) Sadly however, after the age of six, little effective treatment is available, and the child is faced with living his/her life with only one good eye (monocular vision).

How Prevent Blindness Ohio can help:

Since 1999, Prevent Blindness Ohio has received funding from the Ohio Dept. of Health, Bureau of Child and Family Health Services, Save Our Sight Program to conduct preschool vision screening trainings for healthcare professionals, community volunteers and educators. The training includes:

- Instruction on how to perform stereopsis and distance visual acuity screening,
- Detailed information on childhood eye diseases and disorders,
- Information on how to set up a screening area in a primary care office or child care environment,
- Resources and recommendations for follow up of referred children,
- Hands-on practicum with the screening equipment,
- Preschool Vision Screening Guide for Healthcare Professionals Manual: published in partnership with Prevent Blindness America and American Academy of Pediatrics,
- Preschool Vision Screening Guidelines: published by the Ohio Department of Health, and
- Information on CPT Reimbursement Code #99173 and eye care referral resources.

Funding for this program is made possible by the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Child and Family Health Services, Save Our Sight Program. Training sessions and vision screening kits are provided at no cost to participants.

Upon successful completion of the four hour training and a two hour homework component, participants are eligible to receive a set of vision screening equipment (over a \$300 value) that contains:

- Lea Symbol Chart for screening for visual acuity,
- Model A Good-Lite Visual Acuity Cabinet,
- Random Dot E stereopsis test,
- Assorted children's vision care resources and brochures.

Preschool vision screeners will receive their certification from Prevent Blindness America, which is valid for three years. An on-line recertification course is offered by Prevent Blindness Ohio.

How to Schedule a Preschool Vision Screening Training:

If you have a group of 10 or more that would like to schedule a training class, please contact Lauren at 1.800.301.2020 ext. 116. An updated training schedule also appears on our website at: www.wiseabouteyes.org.

Prevent Blindness Ohio is celebrating 50 years as Ohio's leading volunteer nonprofit public health organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. Founded in 1957 by U.S. Senator John Bricker and Lion's Club Member, Bob Morrison with support from Nationwide, the Ohio Department of Health and Delta Gamma Fraternity, PBO serves all 88 Ohio counties. We provide direct services to more than 800,000 Ohioans annually and educate millions of consumers about what they can do to protect and preserve their precious gift of sight. Prevent Blindness Ohio is an affiliate of Prevent Blindness America, the country's second-oldest national voluntary health organization.

Columbus/Cleveland/Cincinnati/Dayton/Toledo
www.pbohio.org