



COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY PRESCHOOL VISION SCREENING PROGRAM

Vision Screening Training

OUR ONE PURPOSE: SAVING SIGHT

Founded in 1966, Prevent Blindness Northern California's mission is to fight blindness and save sight. We do this by conducting vision screenings, professional education classes, and providing public information in Northern California. The support of volunteers enables us to provide services to more people. We are recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, ID Number



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PRESCHOOL VISION SCREENING IS IT FOR YOU?

If you are a member of a community service organization or club, are able to volunteer a minimum of one morning per month and enjoy the exuberance and energy of preschool children then becoming a Preschool Vision Screener is definitely for you!

Call (800) 338-3041 for more information or to schedule training.

WHY IS VISION SCREENING IMPORTANT?

- While only an eye care professional can diagnose and treat a vision problem, screening helps find children **in need** of a full eye exam.
- Vision problems affect one in 20 preschoolers and one in four school-age children. Yet, many children never receive a vision screening.
- Children often do not know when they are not seeing properly.
- Left untreated, a vision problem in a preschool child may result in permanent decreased vision in the affected eye (amblyopia). This program has saved many children from loss of sight!



WHAT IS A PRESCHOOL VISION SCREENING?

Our preschool vision screenings consist of:

- Observation of the child for signs of eye problems.
- Screening of the child's distance vision.
- Re-screening: Those children who do not pass the initial screening are re-screened and referred to an eye doctor for a complete eye examination when necessary.

WHY VISION SCREENING TRAINING?

Our volunteer preschool vision screeners are specifically trained and certified to perform vision screening on 3-5 year-old children. A standardized training program ensures that screenings are accurate, valid and consistent.

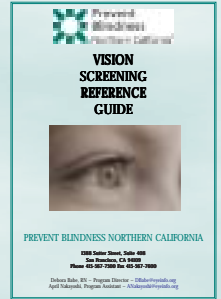
WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING?

The training consists of two sessions, which are approximately three hours each.

Session one includes basic information on vision, common eye problems in children, screening techniques, referral and follow-up procedures for those children with a possible vision problem.

Session two is a supervised practice, working with children in a preschool. Additional supervised practice sessions are provided when necessary.

All participants receive our *Screening Reference Guide* which gives important information including equipment lists, space requirements, setup directions, instructions for conducting screening tests, and other reference material.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE TRAINING?

- The Team will select a Team Leader to coordinate screenings. Screening teams set their own schedule, but usually the hours to screen in preschools are weekday mornings. A list of local schools to contact for screening is provided for each volunteer team.
- Prevent Blindness Northern California* will supply a screening kit.
- We ask teams to commit to screening a minimum of 300 children or at least once a month. All screening and follow-up statistics are sent to *Prevent Blindness*.
- Prevent Blindness* staff is always available by phone to answer questions, assist in follow-up and to provide additional in-field training when necessary.

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