



SAMPLE PROJECT IDEA SHEET:

ORGANIZE A HEARING SCREENING FOR PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Any degree of hearing loss can affect a child's educational development. The goal of screening for preschoolers (ages 3-5 years) is to identify children most likely to have hearing loss that may interfere with communication, development, health or future school performance.

The goal of screening school age children and adolescents (5-18 years) is to identify youth most likely to have hearing impairment that may interfere with development, communication, health and education. School age children with even minimal hearing loss are at risk for academic and communication difficulties.

Your club can provide a valuable service in the community by organizing free hearing screenings to identify possible hearing loss in children.

How Lions Clubs Can Help

- Step 1:** Contact private and public preschools, childcare centers, grade schools and high schools to determine if your club's assistance is needed to conduct free hearing screenings. You may also search for local children's clinics and local or state organizations working to promote children's health. These can include:
- Special Education Programs
 - Public Health Agencies
 - Family Service Agencies
 - Department of Family/Youth Services
 - Health and Human Services Department
 - Foster Care Agencies
- Step 2:** Arrange for hearing professionals and use of testing equipment. Audiologists and clinic audiometrists with extensive hearing screening experience often agree to perform free screenings.
- Step 3:** Select a date and location for your screening, such as a local school, children's clinic, child care center, a back-to-school health fair, community center, library or place of worship.
- Step 4:** On the day of the screening, organize the screening room and assist with record-keeping functions. A quiet room equipped with tables and chairs must be chosen for the screening. Electricity will be required for the equipment. For a school screening, Lions can volunteer to bring children to the designated screening room and return them to their classrooms. A local Leo club may wish to volunteer.

Step 5: Provide advance publicity to local news outlets to promote the hearing screening. Enlist the help of your Club Public Relations Chairperson.

- Place flyers or posters in highly visible places. Let the community know the date, time and location of your hearing screening, especially if it will be offered to children throughout the community.
- Use newspaper ads, phone calls and e-mails to promote your hearing screening.
- Announce your screening on your club's Web site.
- Remember to send follow up reminders.

Step 6: After the screening, your club can:

- Send thank you letters to persons involved in the screening. This includes hearing professionals who donated time, community centers that provided a venue and companies that donated equipment or supplies.
- Send a news release to local media. Include details such as the number of children who were screened and the number of children who were referred for further evaluation.
- Follow up with families whose children had difficulty hearing and provide them with information for further evaluation by the family's medical provider.

Step 7: Celebrate your club's accomplishments. Issue certificates of appreciation to members and volunteers. You may want to present a Lions Children First Certificate of Appreciation to those providing the hearing screening sites.

Share your success!

Please tell us about your project by visiting the Association's Web site at www.lionsclubs.org. Just type "Lions Children First" in the search box to find an easy, on-line survey for your convenience.



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