

Parent Testimony – Colton (17 months old)

The opportunity for my son, Colton (17 months at the time) to have his vision screened at such a young age has been life changing. The screening done by the Plainfield Lion's Club in March 2016, through the FRC playgroup in Plainfield, made a huge difference in our lives. At such a young age the "standard procedure" is to have a pediatrician check a child's eyes and vision with a series of rudimentary exams during a 'well baby' check- up visit. If there are no physical abnormalities noted during these visits it is "standard procedure" to wait until a child is either of preschool or kindergarten age (insurance doesn't cover eye exams until age 3), to have their vision checked by an eye doctor. Having a family history of significant vision issues, I asked my pediatrician numerous times to have my son's vision checked, as a proactive measure. I was repetitively rebuffed. I often explained that my vision issue (lazy eye) was caught too late (not until I was 6 and no longer able to be altered) and I did not want my son to suffer a lifetime of issues that I have had to deal with as a result of this vision abnormality. I often brought up the issue of frequent falling and developmental delays. Having his hearing checked (normal) and the support of Birth to Three for developmental delays; I continued to bring up the issue of concern over Colton's vision. **It was not until I had the vision screening done by the Lion's Club, that I had solid evidence that Colton needed to see a pediatric ophthalmologist. His screening identified some issues and using that paperwork we were able to convince his pediatrician to give him a referral for an exam.** The eye doctor did determine he does have some serious vision issues: blurry vision and astigmatism in both eyes, nearsightedness and the ability to develop a lazy eye, if corrective lenses are not worn. The expense of the glasses (300\$) were not covered by my insurance company (as most insurance companies decline to pay this fee), but my husband and I felt that the expense was well worth the future we were hoping to create. **I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to get my son some much needed help and the support of numerous people who have made this happen.**

~Thank you, Erika~

