

Educator's Guide to Classroom Vision Problems

Student's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

1. APPEARANCE OF EYES

- One eye turns in or out at any time
- Encrusted eyelids
- Reddened eyes or lids
- Frequent styes on lids
- Eyes tear excessively

2. COMPLAINTS WHEN USING EYES AT DESK

- Headaches in forehead or temples
- Burning or itching after reading or desk work
- Print blurs after reading a short time
- Nausea or dizziness

3. BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF VISUAL PROBLEMS

A. Eye Movement Abilities (Ocular Motility)

- Head turns as reads across page
- Too frequently omits words
- Repeatedly omits "small" words
- Displays short attention span in reading or copying
- Needs finger or marker to keep place
- Rereads or skips lines unknowingly
- Writes up or down hill on paper
- Orients drawing poorly on page
- Loses place often during reading

B. Eye Teaming Abilities (Binocularity)

- Complains of seeing double (diplopia)
- Omits letters, numbers or phrases
- Squints, closes or covers one eye
- Consistently shows gross postural deviations at all desk activities
- Repeats letters within words
- Misaligns digits in number columns
- Tilts head extremely while working at desk

C. Eye-Hand Coordination Abilities

- Head turns as reads across page
- Too frequently omits words
- Repeatedly omits "small" words
- Displays short attention span in reading or copying
- Needs finger or marker to keep place
- Rereads or skips lines unknowingly
- Writes up or down hill on paper
- Orients drawing poorly on page
- Loses place often during reading

D. Visual Form Perception (Visual Comparison, Visual Imagery, Visualization)

- Mistakes words with same or similar beginnings
- Reverses letters and/or words in writing & copying
- Confuses same words in same sentence
- Whispers to self for reinforcement when reading silently
- Returns to "drawing with fingers" to decide likes and differences
- Fails to recognize same word in next sentence
- Confuses likenesses and minor differences
- Repeatedly confuses similar beginnings and endings of words

E. Refractive Status (Nearsightedness, Farsightedness, Focus Problems, etc.)

- Holds book too closely; Face too close to desk surface
- Rubs eyes during or after short periods of visual activity
- Mispronounces similar words as continues reading
- Squints to see chalkboard, requests to sit nearer
- Makes errors in copying from reference book to notebook
- Fatigues easily; blinks to make chalkboard clear up after desk task
- Comprehension reduces as reading continued; loses interest too quickly
- Complains of discomfort in tasks that demand visual interpretation
- Avoids all possible near-centered tasks
- Blinks excessively at desk task and/or reading not elsewhere

If one or more of these signs or symptoms is observed in a student, it could be an indicator of an undetected vision problem that typical school screenings would not catch. **Dr. Ted Kadet at Hope Clinic** (Bellevue, Tacoma and Silverdale) offers Free Vision Screenings to give more information about a person's functional vision. For more information or to schedule a Screening, please visit www.hopecliniconline.com or call 425-462-7800