

Educator's Checklist

Observable Clues to classroom vision problems

If you observe these signs or symptoms in a student, please suggest that they have a comprehensive behavioural vision assessment to rule out vision problems which will affect their learning and academic progress. Do not hesitate to get in touch with me to discuss any concerns.

1. Appearance of eyes

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

2. Complaints when using eyes at desk

- Headaches in forehead or temples
- Burning or itching after reading or desk work
- Nausea or dizziness
- Print blurs after reading a short time
- Words move or "swim" on the page

3. Behavioural signs of visual problems

A. Eye Movement Abilities (ocular motility)

- Head turns as read across the page
- Loses place often during reading
- Needs finger or marker to keep place beyond age 7
- Displays short attention span in reading or copying
- Too frequently omits words
- Writes up or down hill on paper
- Rereads or skips lines unknowingly
- Orients drawing poorly on page

B. Eye Teaming Abilities (binocularity)

- Complains of seeing double(diplopia)
- Repeats letters within words
- Omits letters, numbers or phrases
- Misaligns digits in number columns
- Squints, closes or covers one eye
- Tilts head extremely while working at desk
- Odd working posture at desk

C. Eye-Hand Co-ordination Abilities

- Must feel things to "get the idea"
- Eyes not used to "steer" hand movements (lacks orientation, placement of words or drawings on page)

- Writes crookedly, poorly spaced, can't stay on ruled lines
- Misaligns both horizontal and vertical series of numbers
- Uses hand or fingers to control spacing and alignment on page
- Repeatedly confuses left-right directions

D. Visual Form Perception (visual comparison, visual imagery, visualisation)

- Fails to recognise same word in next sentence
- Reverses letters and/or words in writing & copying
- Difficulty recognising minor differences
- Repeatedly confuses words with similar beginnings and endings
- Fails to visualise what is read silently or aloud
- Whispers to self for reinforcement while reading silently
- Uses "drawing with fingers" to decide similarities and differences

E. Refractive Status (nearsightedness, long sightedness, focus problems etc.)

- Quickly loses interest in reading/avoids near-centered tasks
- Blinks excessively at desk tasks &/or reading
- Holds book too closely, face too close to desk
- Closes or covers one eye when reading or doing desk work
- Makes mistakes in copying, board to paper, page to paper
- Squints to see board or asks to move closer
- Rubs eyes during or after short periods of visual activity
- Tires easily, blinks to make board clear after reading or writing

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