



How can I tell if my student or child has a visually related learning problem? This is useful whether you are a parent or school teacher.

We have known from The Dartmouth study in the 30's that school eyesight screening has nothing to do with learning. The best students at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire had the worst visual acuities. It is a mystery why this antiquated screening has continued. The screening only checks 3% your child's vision and no skill related to learning. Since you can not rely on the antiquated school eyesight screening, below are three categories of signs and symptoms you can rely on to determine if a visually related learning problem may exist:



Why This?

1. Appearance of eyes

- Headaches in forehead or temples
- Burning or itchy eyes after reading or desk work
- Print blurs soon as reading
- Complains of seeing double
- Words move or swim on page

Why not this?



2. Complaints at desk work

- Headaches in forehead or temples
- Burning or itchy eyes after reading or desk work
- Print blurs soon as reading
- Complains of seeing double
- Words move or swim on page
- One eye turns in or out at any time.
- Reddened eyes or lids
- Eyes tear excessively
- Encrusted eyelids
- Frequent styes on lids.



Section(e) of California school vision screening law, education code 49455, says teachers and nurses are to be instructed in the signs and symptoms of visually

related vision problems, but **most districts ignore the section.**

3. Behavioral signs of visual problems

a. Eye movement abilities (ocular motility)

- Head turns in reading / paperwork
- Loses place frequently as reads
- Use finger / marker to keep place
- Short attention span
- Frequently omits words
- Writes up or down hill
- Rereads or skips lines
- Miss-oriens drawings on page

b. Eye teaming ability

- Repeats letters within words
- Omits numbers letters or phrases
- Miss aligns digits in columns
- Squints, closes or covers one eye
- Tilts head at desk or reading
- Odd posture in desk activities
- Stubborn behavior

c. Eye-hand coordination abilities

Must " feel things" to get the idea

- Eyes not used to steer hands (lack of orientation, placement of words or drawings)
- Writes crookedly, poorly spaced can't stay on line
- Miss aligns both horizontal and vertical series of numbers
- Uses hand as "spacer" to control spacing and page alignment
- Confuses right-left directions

d. Visual Form Perception

- Doesn't recognize the same word in the next sentence
- Reverses letters/words writing or copying
- Hard to recognize minor differences
- Confuses words with similar beginnings/endings
- Doesn't visualize what read silently/orally
- Whispers to reinforce silent reading
- "Draws" with finger to tell similarities/differences

e. Need for eyeglasses

- Rapidly loses interest in reading
- Blinks a lot read or desk work
- Holds book too close or face close to desk
- Makes errors in copying from board/page or paper
- Squints to see board/requests to move nearer
- Rubs eyes during/after short periods of visual activity
- Blinks to clear board after desk or digital work.

