

VISION CONCERNS

The process of receiving vision services begins when there are concerns about a child's vision. The following is a list of the ABC'S of vision problems. If a student is experiencing difficulties using their vision, the first step is to take the student to an optometrist or ophthalmologist to determine the cause, receive a visual diagnosis, approximated visual acuity, and determine if the student needs to be referred for school based vision services.

APPEARANCE

- One or both eyes turn inward or outward, or one is slightly higher or lower than the other eye.
- Crusty or red eyelids or red eyes.
- Eyes that are in constant, rapid motion.
- Drooping eyelids(s)
- Pupils of different sizes, or different reactions to light and accommodations.
- Glands that are enlarged, inflamed, or otherwise infected.
- Excessive tearing, light sensitivity, lid spasms.

BEHAVIOR

- Lack of or reduced eye contact.
- Shows poor eye muscle coordination.
- Covers or closes one eye for critical seeing.
- Thrusts head forward to see distant objects.
- Tilts head to one side for critical seeing.
- Tries to "brush away" a blur.
- Rubs eyes often or blinks often while reading or looking at books.
- Frowns or squints when looking at or trying to see distant objects.
- Stumbles often over objects, is awkward
- Holds book, toy, or picture too close or too far away.

COMPLAINTS

- Sensitivity to light.
- Burning or itching of eyes or eyelids.
- Seeing double, or blurred vision.
- Headaches, usually after a critical visual task.
- Nausea or dizziness.

SCHOOL RELATED

- Difficulty copying from the board.
- Difficulty with handwriting.
- Confuses similar words.
- Needs more light to read than expected.
- Reading comprehension deteriorates with time.
- Doesn't read to the end of a sentence before going to the next.
- Head moves instead of eyes when reading or looking at pictures.
- Loses place when reading and skips lines.
- Needs to use finger as a line marker.
- Difficulty solving maze puzzles and word searches.
- Math errors due to misalignment of numbers.

