

## VISION CONCERNS (School Age)

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, approximate 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 eyelid(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 distance 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 a or trying to see distance 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