

Educator's Checklist of Observable Clues
To Classroom Vision Problems

1. Appearance of Eyes

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

2. Complaints When Using Eyes at Desk

- Headaches in forehead or temples
- Burning or itchy eyes after reading or desk work
- Print blurs after reading a short time
- Complains of seeing double (diplopia)
- Words move or "swim" on the page

3. Behavioral Signs of Visual Problems

A. Eye Movement Abilities (Ocular Motility)

- Head turns as reads across page
- Loses place frequently during reading
- Needs finger or marker to keep place
- Short attention span in reading or copying
- Frequently omits words
- Writes up- or downhill on paper
- Rereads or skips lines unknowingly
- Orients drawings poorly on page

B. Eye Teaming Abilities (Binocularity)

- 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 activities

C. Eye-Hand Coordination Abilities

- Must feel things "to get the idea"

- Eyes not used to “steer” hand movements (extreme lack of orientation, placement or words or drawings on page)
- Writes crookedly, poorly spaced; cannot stay on ruled lines
- Misaligns both horizontal and vertical series of numbers
- Uses hand as “spacer” to control spacing and alignment on page
- Repeatedly confuses left-right directions

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

- Fails to recognize same word in next sentence
- Reverses letters and/or words in writing and copying
- Difficulty recognizing minor differences
- Repeatedly confuses words with similar beginnings and endings
- Fails to visualize what is read silently or aloud
- Whispers to self for reinforcement while reading silently
- Uses “drawing with fingers” to discriminate similarities and differences

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

- Quickly loses interest in reading
- Blinks excessively at desk tasks or reading
- Holds book too closely; face too close to desk
- Makes errors in copying from chalkboard to paper
- Makes errors in copying from page to paper
- Squints to see chalkboard, or requests to move nearer
- Rubs eyes during or after short periods of visual activity
- Blinks to clear chalkboard after reading or writing