

Learning-Related Vision Problems & Vision Therapy Facts & Figures

- The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) estimates that there are 10 million children under 10 years of age in the U.S. that have vision problems.¹
- Up to 25% of all school age children have vision problems significant enough to impair academic performance. The rate may be as high as 60% for those children labeled as having learning problems.²
- An evaluation of the visual efficiency of beginning readers in a public school found that visual factors were the primary cause of reading failure and that most current school screenings are inadequate to detect these problems.³
- A study of inner city youths found that poor vision is related to academic and behavioral problems among at-risk children.⁴
- Vision problems are often typically misdiagnosed as learning disabilities or ADD/ADHD leading to special education intervention and unnecessary drug treatment of school children.
- The 20/20 eye chart test (invented in the 1860s) only measures what you can see far away, not the “up-close” ability to see books or computers, nor the ability of the eyes and brain to work together in processing visual information.
- Thorough vision examinations measure eye teaming (how the eyes work together), focusing (ease in sustaining focus for up-close work), and tracking skills (how accurately and smoothly eyes move together across a page of print) as well as visual information processing abilities.
- Developmental Optometrists can provide vision examinations that fully assess these vision problems. These doctors are trained in evaluation of learning-related vision problems and treatment using special glasses and vision therapy.
- Studies have shown that the correction of vision problems with vision therapy leads to significant reduction in visual symptoms and improvements in reading performance.^{5, 6, 7}

References:

1. National Parent Teacher Association
2. American Foundation for Vision Awareness
3. Optometry & Vision Development
4. Journal of Behavioral Optometry
5. Binocular Vision & Eye Muscle Surgery Quarterly
6. Optometry and Vision Science
7. Optometry: Journal of the American Optometric Association