

Vision Support Team Information sheets

Indications of possible visual difficulties in children

If you notice any of the points described below then please check:

- ▶ If the child is wearing glasses; do they fit properly and are they clean?
- ▶ If the child is not wearing glasses; do they have some but just don't want to wear them or have they lost them?
- ▶ Have they had a recent eye test? (free for those in full time education).

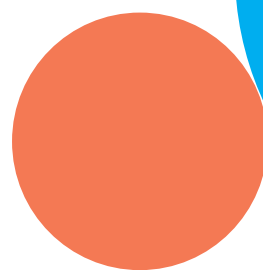
Have you noticed any of these things about the child?

Appearance of eyes

- ▶ Do their eyes seem red a lot of the time?
- ▶ Are they rubbing their eyes a lot?
- ▶ Do their eyes look hazy when they look at you?
- ▶ Do their eyes look misaligned?
- ▶ Do they close one eye?
- ▶ Are they tilting their head to look at you?
- ▶ Do they screw their eyes up in bright lights or when they are trying to focus?

Distance work

- ▶ Are they slow to copy from the board or do they make surprising mistakes, for example missing words or lines?
- ▶ Do you see them looking at their friend's work a lot?
- ▶ Do they seem not to notice what is going on around them?



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Near vision work

- ▶ Are they getting very close to their work or hold it at an unusual angle?
- ▶ Is their handwriting unusually big or cramped?
- ▶ Do they make odd errors in their work?
- ▶ Do they struggle with the small detail in maps, diagrams or dictionaries?
- ▶ Are they slow to learn to read relative to expectations?
- ▶ Do they stumble and lose their place when reading aloud?
- ▶ Do they use their memory to cover up poor reading?
- ▶ Do they tire quickly when doing reading and writing?
- ▶ Do they complain of headaches at the end of the day?

Outside and PE

- ▶ Do they trip or stumble a lot?
- ▶ Do they complain that children are bumping into them a lot?
- ▶ Do they struggle to find their friends on the playground?
- ▶ Do they put their heads down or squint on sunny days?

Don't forget to ask the child.

Don't say, "can you see," as the answer to that is likely to be yes.

Instead try asking;

"Is everything easy for you to see?"

"Would you like to come closer?"

"Would it help if I made this bigger?"

You may notice other things or less tangible things which make you wonder about the child's vision. Perhaps a sense of the child being lost or disoriented or switching off, particularly in a group. It is always best to check it out – vision is so important to learning.

**If you are still
concerned about your
child and require more
information, then
please contact the**

Vision Support Team Manager
on **0116 305 9400**