

# Sight Matters

FAQ Sheets

## Vision-Related Learning Difficulties

Approximately 15% of 5 to 12 year old children have vision-related learning difficulties. These are the result of many interrelated and complex processes of growth and development, of which ability to use vision properly is only one. However, since vision accounts for as much as 80% of what is learned, it is a very significant factor.

There is a need to identify all ways of improving vision that will help the process of education. For example, if a child's ability to concentrate and persevere with near vision tasks is improved, the results for all future teaching efforts are likely to be enhanced.



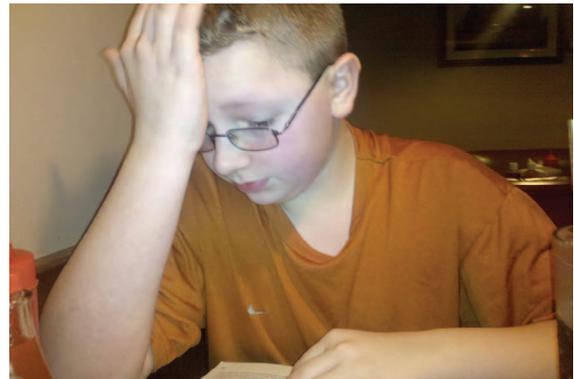
*You can't learn if seeing causes eyestrain*

### Visual Perception

Visual perception is the ability to analyse and understand what the eyes are seeing. For each child, normal development of this skill is important before they enter school. Studies have shown that children with vision problems are more likely to have difficulty with their visual perception. However, these difficulties may also occur with otherwise normal vision.

If a perceptual problem does exist, the underlying vision problem is treated first, then a plan or perceptual skills therapy is administered.

(The illustration on the right is a popular example of visual perception - an old lady or a young woman?)



*Tired eyes will interfere with concentration*

### Eye Examinations

It is important that any child experiencing learning problems be given a thorough examination to exclude or correct a visual cause.

There are many different vision skills which must develop normally after birth. These include the clearness of vision, hand-eye co-ordination, visual form perception, eye movement, eye focussing, eye aiming and eye teaming skills.

Situations which interfere with normal visual development can in turn hamper the child's ability to learn to read and then later to read to learn.