

3285 Martin Parkway ~ Suite 104 ~ Walled Lake, MI 48390
www.becausefocusmatters.com ~ 248-385-8235

A Guide for Making Referrals to Focus Academy

Who benefits from vision therapy?

- ✧ Children who are having trouble with reading or learning.
- ✧ Children who are uncoordinated.
- ✧ Children who are considered “behavior problems”.
- ✧ Children diagnosed with ADD/ADHD.
- ✧ Anyone who participates in athletics and wants improved performance.
- ✧ Anyone who suffers from burning, itching eyes, eye strain or visual fatigue (with no medical eye problem).
- ✧ Anyone who has suffered a traumatic brain injury or stroke.
- ✧ Anyone who experiences motion sickness.
- ✧ Anyone looking for non-surgical treatment of amblyopia, strabismus, convergence insufficiency or other binocular vision disorders.

1. SYMPTOMS CHECKLIST

The symptoms checklist is a starting point for discovering the need for vision therapy.

If a child scores 20 or above on the checklist, a comprehensive examination is required to assess basic visual skills and determine the need for vision therapy intervention.

In your Health History, you may go over some of the questions in the enclosed lifestyles checklist. Discuss with parents and child:

How is the child performing in school?

How does the child interact with peers?

Does the child like to read? Do they read often?

Is your child taking hours to do homework that should only take a few minutes?

Is your child having problems remembering what they just read?

Does your child skip words or lines?

Does your child misread or reverse words (i.e. saw for was)?

Does your child ever get headaches after reading or working with things at a close distance?

Does your child ever experience motion sickness or intense fatigue when traveling in a car?

Can your child follow basic verbal directions?

Does the patient **avoid near vision work**?

Avoiding near work is one way many children and adults with vision problems behave to their environment. This is the person with a short attention span or who is bouncing off the walls in your office or the adult was having trouble filling out the patient health history form. Any patient reports the presence of **ADD** or **ADHD** is highly likely to have **convergence insufficiency**, which mimics or complicates their condition. A recent study by ophthalmologists just found that half of all ADD patients tested also exhibited convergence insufficiency.

2. NPC or Near Point Convergence

We strongly encourage that this simple test be done routinely in your office. Many problems are discovered this way. It should be noted:

- a. The point where the patient experiences double vision
- b. The distances at which the patient shows any discomfort
- c. Any loss of fixation or eye turning away from the target

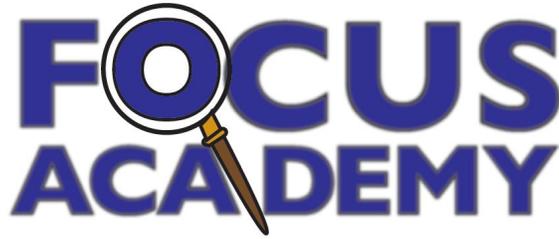
Although many patients can converge, they struggle and cannot sustain the effort for more than a few seconds. Any response for the patient indicating pain, pulling sensations, headache or nausea during the task should also be noted.

3. Double Vision Demonstrator

Ask the patient if they ever see the print on the page this way?

Does the print ever seem to swim around, move or quiver?

If yes, does this get worse as the day wears on, especially in the afternoon or when tired ?



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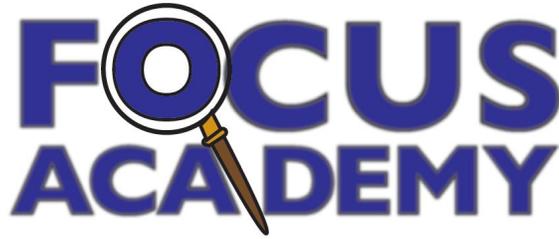
Symptoms of Visual Problems

Does your child experience the following symptoms?

Place a checkmark in the column to the right.

1. Headaches with reading or writing	
2. Reads below grade level, difficulty with reading comprehension	
3. Loses place while reading, skips or repeats lines	
4. Head tilt or closes an eye when reading	
5. Hard to copy from the board	
6. Difficulty with basic math skills	
7. Poor verbal and/or written expression	
8. Hard to write in a straight line	
9. Burning, itching or water eyes	
10. Poor gross and/or motor skills	
11. Difficulty finishing assignments on time or homework takes too long	
12. Gives up easily	
13. Bumps into things, knocks things over, doesn't judge distance accurately	
14. In trouble for being off task at school	
15. Misaligns digits or columns of numbers	
16. Poor, inconsistent performance in sports	
17. Avoids sports and games	
18. Poor hand/eye coordination	
19. Poor time management	
20. Cannot predict the consequences of his/her behavior	

If the total score is more than 5, there is a greater than 80% chance of having a vision problem that is interfering with learning. The higher the score, the greater the probability. If a problem is suspected, a comprehensive examination is required to assess basic skills. A functional vision exam at Focus Academy may be done to evaluate specific areas necessary for efficient academic performance. If necessary, vision therapy will be prescribed to meet your specific goals and needs.



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OPTOMETRIC VISION THERAPY REFERRAL/CONSULTATION FORM

PATIENT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

DATE: _____

For the following reasons:

- Amblyopia
- Accommodative dysfunction
- Convergence insufficiency
- Developmental Delays
- Double vision
- Exotropia/esotropia/hyperopia
- History of visual learning problems
- Reading/learning problems
- Pursuit/Tracking difficulties
- Saccadic difficulties
- Special needs (Autism, C.P., AD(H)D, deaf, low vision)
- Other: _____

Additional Information:

REFERRING DOCTOR: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please call 248-385-8235 for more information and to schedule an initial evaluation today.