



**EDUCATOR’S CHECKLIST  
OBSERVABLE CLUES TO CLASSROOM VISION PROBLEMS**

**1. APPEARANCE OF EYES**

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

**2. COMPLAINTS WHEN USING EYES AT DESK**

- Headaches in forehead or temples
- Burning or itching after reading or desk work
- Nausea or dizziness
- Print blurs after reading a short time

**3. BEHAVIOURAL SIGNS OF VISUAL PROBLEMS**

**A. EYE MOVEMENT ABILITIES (ocular motility)**

- Head turns as reads across the page
- Loses place often during reading
- Needs finger or marker to keep place
- Displays short attention span in reading or copying
- Too frequently omits words
- Repeatedly omits small words
- Writes up or down hill on paper
- Rereads or skips lines unknowingly
- Orients drawing poorly on page

**B. EYE TEAMING ABILITIES (binocularity)**

- Complains of seeing double (diplopia)
- 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

**C. EYE-HAND CO-ORDINATION ABILITIES**

- Must feel things “got the idea”
- Eyes not used to ‘steer’ hand movements (extreme lack orientation, placement of words or drawings on page)
- Writes crookedly, poorly spaced; can’t stay on ruled lines
- Misaligns both horizontal and vertical series of numbers

- Uses hand or fingers to control spacing and alignment on page
- Repeatedly confuses left-right directions

**D. VISUAL FORM PERCEPTION (visual comparison, visual imagery, visualisation)**

- Fails to recognise same word in next sentence
- Reverses letters and/or words in writing & copying
- Difficulty recognising minor differences
- Repeatedly confuses words with similar beginnings and endings
- Fails to visualise what is read silently or aloud
- Whispers to self for reinforcement while reading silently
- Uses ‘drawing with fingers’ to decide similarities differences

**E. REFRACTIVE STATUS (nearsightedness, longsightedness, focus problems etc)**

- Quickly loses interest in reading
- Blinks excessively at desk tasks &/or reading
- Holds book too closely; face too close to desk
- Avoids near-centred tasks
- Closes or covers one eye when reading or doing desk work
- Makes mistakes in copying –board to paper, page to paper
- Squints to see board or asks to move closer
- Rubs eyes during or after short periods of visual activity
- Tires easily; blinks to make board clear after reading or writing

Additional Comments:

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