

IN SIGHT



DIFFERENT FRAMES OF MIND
An Optical Shop



Where the *FOCUS* is on *YOU!*

Your Child's Vision A Parent's Guide

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Does your child or teen seem to sit much too close to the television or seem to "dawdle" over his homework far beyond the normal, "I can't believe they are making me do this," stage? Occasionally, these behaviors are just normal for the average kid. But, if the behavior is the rule rather than the exception, there could be another reason. Children often do not know they are having vision problems simply because they have never experienced really good vision. It falls to the parent to ascertain the need to visit an ophthalmologist or optometrist. It has always been advisable to have your child's eyes examined by a specialist before they are 5 to avoid amblyopia and other preventable problems. Screenings done by schools and others cannot take the place of a real eye examination. Visual problems that have a real impact on learning and motor skill development are often missed or never screened for because the proper tests needed to de-

tect some kinds of visual problems are too lengthy or difficult. Children often disguise the need for visual assistance unknowingly by using "tricks" to aid them in recognizing friends in the distance or professing sleepiness or tiredness at homework time. Some reveal the problem by complete accident. My son, now 17, asked an innocent question when he was 15. "Mom, why can't I see just one 'no smoking' sign without trying?" was the question. The answer was an immediate vision exam! In his case, the need for prism had been missed in 11 years of really thorough exams by several very good doctors because he would concentrate to make the two images into one! The importance of listening to your child and a thorough visual exam yearly cannot be overlooked! By the way, my son's new prescription had a serious impact on his ability to read and gross motor skills. He is now an avid reader to our pleasant surprise! (Baseball's better, too)

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