

Vision Skills Needed for Academic Achievement; how to Identify “At Risk” Students?

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COURSE OUTLINE: This course is 1 hour and includes training to identify students with undetected functional vision problems and how to perform a “Detection Screening”. Also included is an introduction to eye tracking and vision perception development techniques, and time for questions/answers.

- **The Myth of Perfect Vision**
 - **Dangerous Assumptions and Expectations Regarding Vision**
 - **Near Vision: A Learned Skill Much More Than 20/20**
 - **A New Definition of “Functional Vision”**
 - **Ways vision can affect behavior**
 - **What is vision therapy (VT) ?**
 - **What can be done if Vision Therapy is not available?**
 - **Introduction to “eye tracking” and “vision perception” activities for the classroom and home**
 - **Introduction to Certification in Functional Vision & Learning (CFVL)**
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- **What is an eye tracking problem?**
What we really want to know about eye movements?
How do eye movements affect school achievement?
Does the history suggest a problem?
What symptoms is the child exhibiting?
How is the student performing in school?
Are the child’s eyes healthy? Does he/she need a comprehensive optometric examination? Have their eyes been dilated in the last year?
Does the child wear glasses?
Are the glasses for distance or near?
Has the child seen a developmental optometrist or an ophthalmologist?
Would the student benefit from eye tracking development techniques at this time?
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- **What is a vision processing problem?**
What we really want to know about vision processing?
How does vision perception affect school achievement?
Does the history suggest a problem?
What symptoms is the child exhibiting?
How is the student performing in school?
Is the student left handed? Cross-dominant?
Does the child have poor penmanship?
Does the child write or read letters/numbers/ words backwards or reversed?
Would the student benefit from vision processing development techniques at this time?
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- **The Use of “Eyes On Track” Symptom checklists**

CLINICAL PEARLS FOR IDENTIFYING STUDENTS WITH AN EYE TRACKING OR VISION PROCESSING DIFFICULTY:

- Assume all students see/perceive differently
- Do not assume that if the student has 20/20 eyesight that they have good vision skills
- Even students that wear glasses can have eye tracking and vision perception problems and vision distortions
- Students with eye tracking and vision processing difficulties can become frustrated and think they are “stupid”
- Left eye dominant students can have a higher percentage of eye tracking and vision processing difficulties
- Use the “Symptom Checklists” to identify students
- Use the “Eyes On Track vision practices” to develop better eye tracking and vision processing skills

The speakers will then discuss typical behavior exhibited by students with an eye tracking and vision processing difficulty.

Following will be a demonstration of a “Detection Screening” as well as an introduction to techniques to improve and develop eye tracking and vision processing in symptomatic students of all ages to “maximize their vision performance”; specific development techniques will be discussed.

- Over X's; Under O's
 - What's Needed
 - Set-Up

- Eye Tracker Searches
 - What's Needed
 - Set-Up

- EYE TRAILS
 - What's Needed
 - Set-Up

- EYE COPY GRID
 - What's Needed
 - Set-Up

- TRACK Jumping
 - What's Needed
 - Set-Up

Correct techniques will be demonstrated and discussed

Methods for utilizing these techniques with special populations will be discussed.

Communication pearls will be discussed

Introduction to the certification course in Functional Vision & Learning will be included (CFVL)

Question/Answer Period will end the course