

# Surprised by the surprise

a strange way of  
treating strabismus

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ROCKLEDGE, FL

*(FLORIDA SPACE COAST)*

# VTOD from the outset

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Entered optometry school to do VT

Older student = NIH National Cancer Institute Laboratory of Genetics PhD student - developmental of immune system in mice

DC area VTODs - Bob and Jeff Kraskin, Paul Harris, Harry Wachs, Mort Davis and others

Skeffington Symposium in 1987, 88 / COVD National Meeting, Philadelphia, PA 1987

Selected SCCO due to reputation in VT

The drive to “learn what I wasn’t going to learn in school”

Externships in private practice - Getz/Etting; Sanet/Hillier.

# VTOD from the outset

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Graduation and early practice – Florida, VT only

A skills-based practice – Refractive Error, Oculomotor Disorders, Visual Information Processing

Conducted my own research study first 5 years in practice

30 years in practice – VT only; Doctor only practice (no therapists)

Paradigm shift – Al Sutton

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

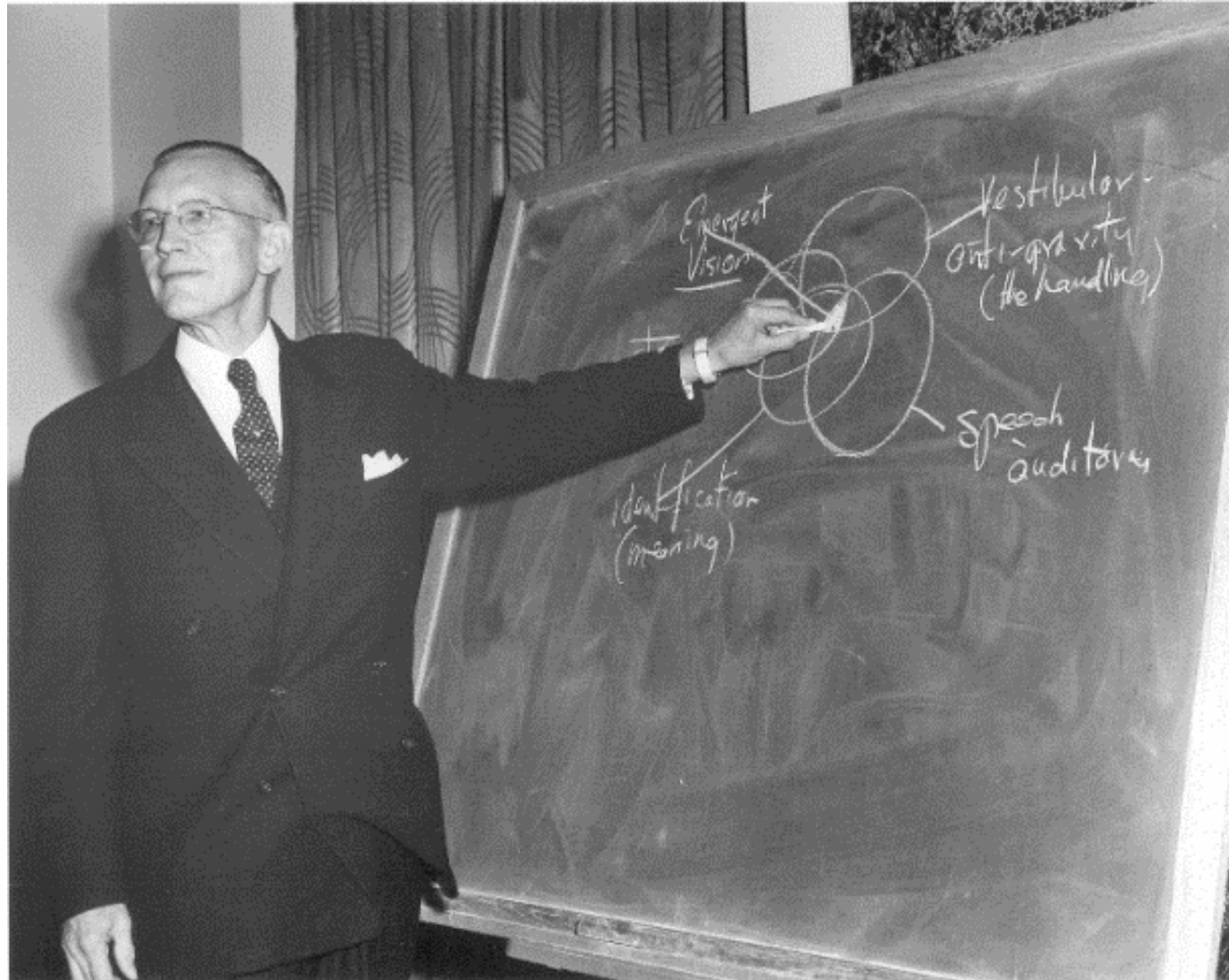
Skeffington

Getman

Kraskin

Sutton

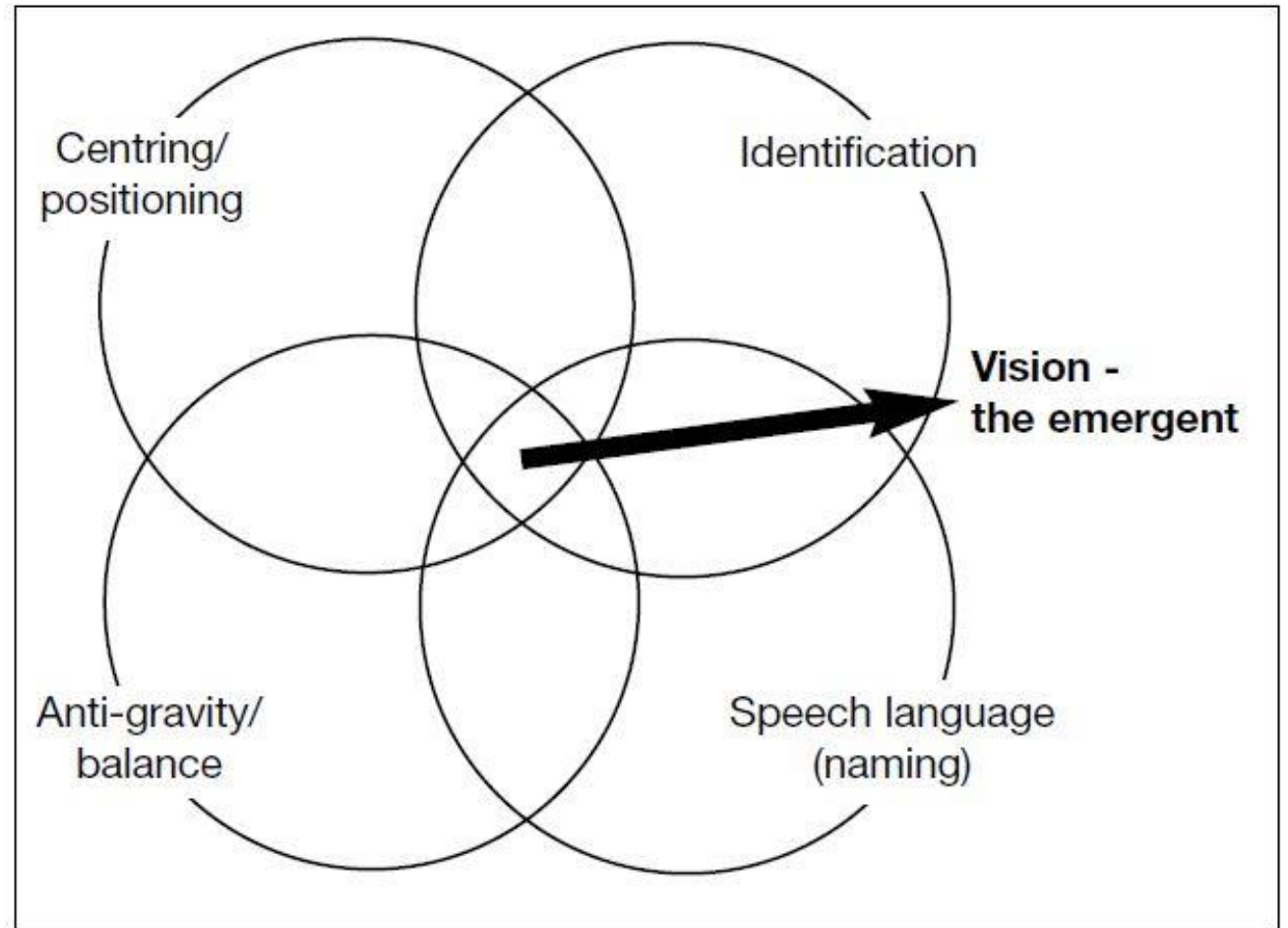
And so many, many more



# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Skeffington's Four Circles

**Figure 3:** Skeffington's four circles concept of vision



# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Skeffington

Getman

Kraskin

Sutton

And so many, many more

## From “lost” (*confused*) to “found”

Skeffington - not part of early therapy model

Now is the primary focus

How and why the paradigm shift

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Skeffington

Getman

Kraskin

Sutton

And so many, many more

From “lost” (*confused*) to  
“found”



Al Sutton

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

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And so many, many more

## From “lost” (*confused*) to “found”

Al Sutton

Sparkling blue eyes and bolo tie from Pueblo, CO

Hoped our legacy would not be lost

Glass half empty

Treating the symptoms

Movement as key



# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Skeffington

Getman

Kraskin

Sutton

And so many, many more

## Al Suttons VT programs

Developmental Visual Learning Visual Thinking  
Programs

Core of 6 basic activities

Nutrition through TMA

Posture and ergonomics

Early proponent of primitive reflexes

Most often used word - "Orientation". ???

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Skeffington

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And so many, many more

## From “lost” (*confused*) to “found”

Analytical Exam as a reflection of underlying  
problems

The “leap” of faith – radical change

From Brock strings and vectograms .....  
..to patty cake and skipping

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

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From “lost” (*confused*) to  
“found”

## 6 Core Activities

- Deep Breathing
- Long Swings
- Jumping Jacks
- Standing Balance
- Patty Cake
- Cross Pattern Skipping

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Recipe from a *Master Chef*

Sutton's Visual Learning Visual  
Thinking Programs

Adaptations from an apprentice

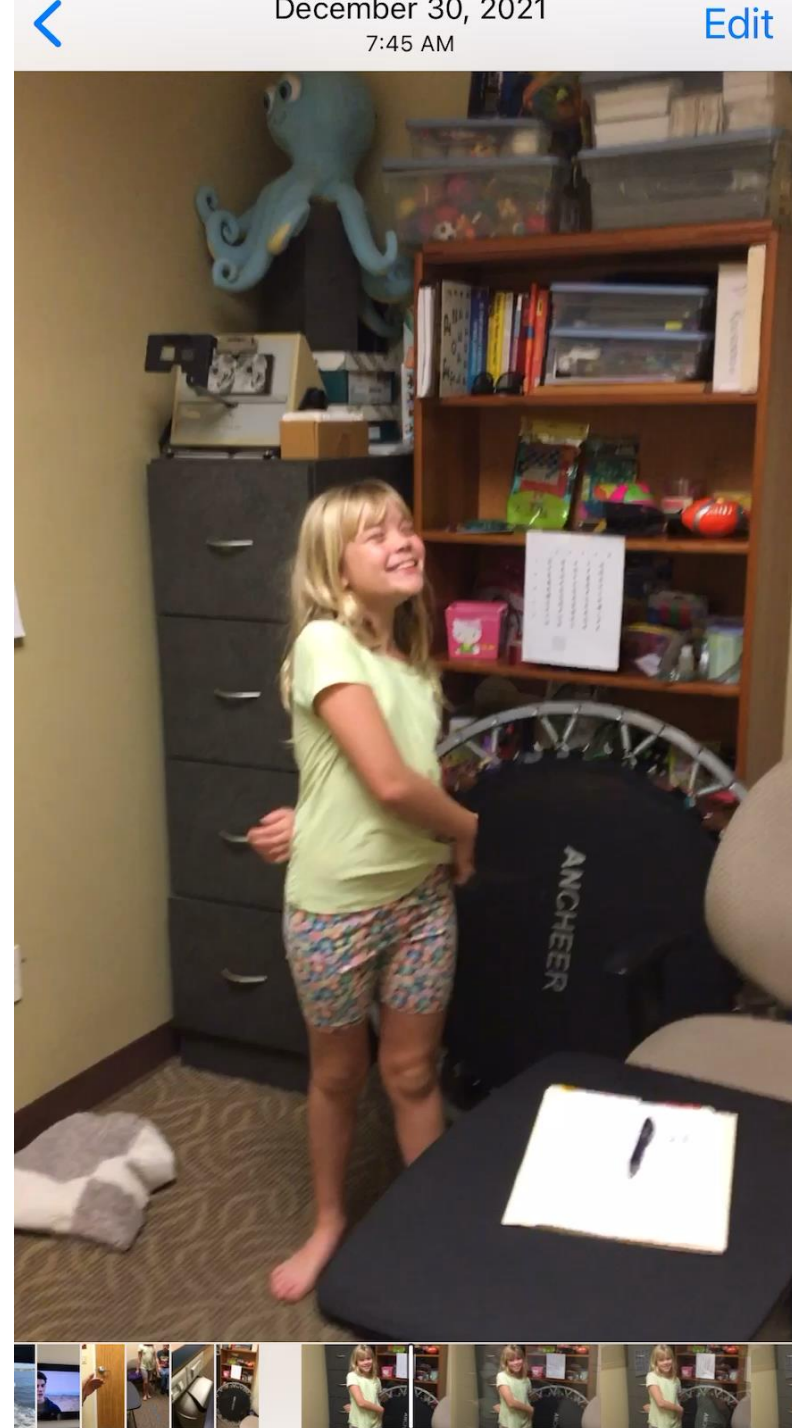


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# A tale of 3 case presentations

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Randomly selected cases from November 2022

All Exotropia

Dramatic reductions in phorias and suppressions

Dramatically improved sensory fusion and vergences

Esotropes????

# Case presentation

William O.

Age 6

Test	Testing Distance	Initial	Followup (after 7 sessions)
Unilateral cover test	Far	RXT	Intermittent RXT
	Near	Alt RXT	No strab
Phoria	Far	12 exo	6 exo
	Near	11 exo	2 exo
Worth 4 dot	Far	3 dots	4 dots
Stereo	Far	None	*20 sec
	Near	100 sec animals	100 sec circles
Vergence facility		XT	Fuses 12BO
Pos Fusional Vergence (prism bar)	Far (break/rec)	suppr	30/9
	Near	suppr	suppr
NPC		XT	2"/3"

# Case presentation

Savana N.

Age 12

Test	Testing Distance	Initial	Followup (after 7 sessions)
Unilateral cover test	Far	Intermittent XT	No strab
	Near	Int XT	No strab
Phoria	Far	suppr	12 eso
	Near	7 eso	7 exo
Worth 4 dot	Far	2 or 3 dots	4 dots
Stereo	Far	All	*50 sec
	Near	70 sec	70 sec
Vergence facility		XT	Fuses 12BO
Pos Fusional Vergence (prism bar)	Far (break/rec)	8/no rec	20/16
	Near	18/no rec	>40/>40
NPC		2"/? suppr	<2"/<2" jump

# Case presentation

Trinity G.

Age 11

Test	Testing Distance	Initial	Followup (7/*14)
Unilateral cover test	Far	Intermittent XT	No strab
	Near	Int XT	No strab
Phoria	Far	suppr	*23 exo
	Near	suppr	14 exo
Worth 4 dot	Far	3 dots	4 dots
Stereo	Far	none	*50 sec
	Near	30 sec	30 sec
Vergence facility		XT	*Fuses 12BO
Pos Fusional Vergence (prism bar)	Far (break/rec)	suppr	*6/4
	Near	suppr	*25/18
NPC		2"/? suppr	2"/6"

# A tale of 3 case presentations

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Randomly selected cases from November 2022

Both Exotropia

Dramatic reductions in phorias and suppressions

Dramatically improved sensory fusion and vergences

But how?

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Gross motor – “That’s for sissies!”

SOLD on the work, but how??

Lots of theoretical possibilities

Our early pioneers, Kraskin, Getman, each in their own way, said “vision is movement”

Nancy Rowe – neural networks

Al Sutton’s interpretation of Skeffington

Building a Visual Space World OEPF Vol 1 & 2, 1984

Rousseau – COVD journal, Vision Development & Rehabilitation Volume 8, Issue 3 · September 2022

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Skeffington

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Sutton

And so many, many more

## **Perspective**

Claude A. Valenti, OD, FCOVD

*Myopia: A Behavioral Approach for  
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## **Perspective**

Paul G. Rousseau, MS, OD, FCOVD

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## **Perspective**

Melissa Snyder, COVT

*Enhancing Vision Therapy Through a  
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## **Perspective**

Patrick Pirotte, OD, FCOVD

*Some Thoughts About My Experience  
with a Private Practice Residency for  
the Last 12 Years . . . . .* 177

## **Case Study**

Robert Lederman, B.Sc (Hons) Optom, FCOVD

# Vision Development & Rehabilitation



It's been a long journey!



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## PERSPECTIVE

### Dr. Al Sutton and Models of Vision

Paul G. Rousseau, MS, OD, FCOVD  
*Viera, Florida*

#### ABSTRACT

One of the unheralded pioneers in our field was Dr. Albert A. Sutton. Al, as he was affectionately known, was a key contributor to many of the theories espoused by his contemporaries ranging from Dr. A.M. Skeffington to Dr. Robert Kraskin to Dr. Gerald Getman. Equally important, he was a mentor to many younger optometrists in our field. Best known for his lectures and writing about “Building A Visual Space World”, he also



#### INTRODUCTION

It is commonplace for seasoned practitioners to reflect on their journey through optometry, mindful of what they were taught as students in contrast with influences and experiences through post-graduate education and clinical practice. Invariably this leads to a progressively broader view of vision and the visual process, one that is informed through the optometric

heritage of those who engaged in such practices before us.

One of my key mentors was Albert A. Sutton, OD, MS, FCOVD, a true pioneer in our field, who reflected on optometric heritage in a series of newsletters that was compiled by the College of Optometrists in Vision Development.<sup>1</sup> On page eight of that compilation, Dr. Sutton references the work of Professor

Samuel Renshaw, who introduced two concepts

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Gross motor – “That’s for sissies!”

Gross motor – that’s for sissies

Or not for developmental optometrists (focused on oculomotor control and BV)- - - if they need that, I’m gonna refer to OT

No way!!! I’m doing that in my practice... that’s too weird... how can that be related????

# Skeffington Re-visited– A Hierarchical Model of Vision

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Anatomical vs functional view of the visual system

Anatomical – RE, Oculomotor, VIP

Functional – Orientation, Localization/Centering, Identification

Vision for Dummies – method of explanation to parents (sliding transparencies to functions)

Functions – a hierarchical model

Orientation from an anatomical point of view – visual vestibular interactions

Rhythm, timing, bilateral integration, and vestibular

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# Skeffington Re-visited– A Hierarchical Model of Vision

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Anatomy re-visited - developing integration between dorsal and ventral streams

How do we define “VISION” ?

Carl Hillier and PAVE

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

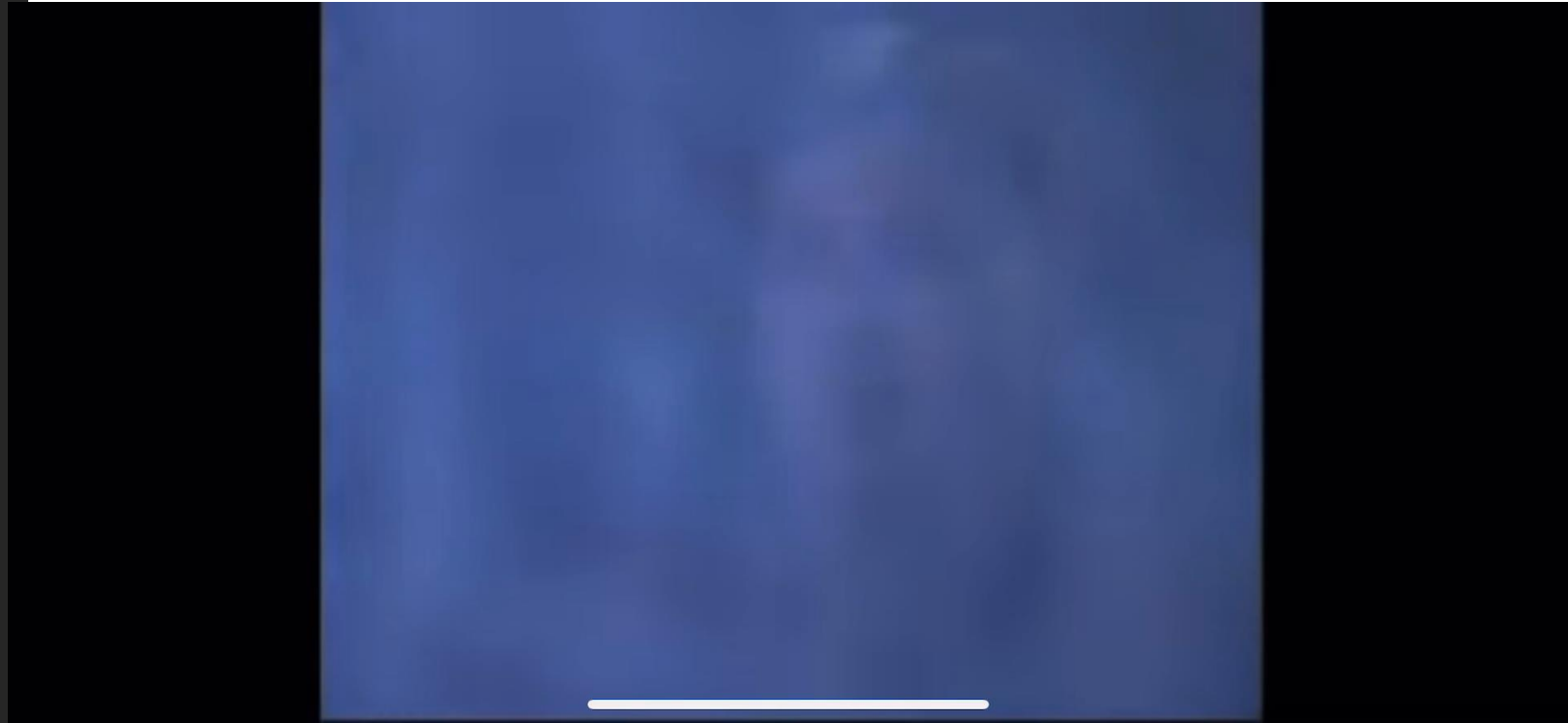
Skeffington

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# Skeffington Re-visited– A Hierarchical Model of Vision

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VISION (as VTODs use it) further re-defined

Skeffington Circles not just vision *per se* but actually BRAIN

*All senses contribute to – orientation, etc in an integrated manner*

*These integrated neural networks thrown out of sync in ABI, Autism?*

*DVLVTP can have a profound impact*



# Skeffington Re-visited– A Hierarchical Model of Vision

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*Vision therapy - a tiered approach*

*DVLVTP - - first tier*

*Traditional VT (Brock string, vectograms, Parquetry blocks) - second tier*

*Others using similar approach (Caroline Hurst, Shirley Ha, Thorkild and Lena)*

*Getman quotes*

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# Standing on the shoulders of giants

JAOA 1994

Marty Birnbaum

The emerging concepts of developmental vision in the 1950s fostered growth in the scope of optometric vision therapy. Getman stressed the significance of gross motor organization as a basis for the development of efficient fine motor, eye movement, visual form perception, and visualization abilities. Developmental vision treatment programs emphasized development of gross motor skills, organization, and awareness, in order to facilitate development of higher level visual functions.<sup>63</sup>

# Standing on the shoulders of giants

Gerry Getman

Arnold Gesell

## How to Develop Your Child's Intelligence (Getman)

“fine motor control can only emerge out of gross motor control”

“all movement skills come from a very sequential development out of visually directed movement practice at all levels of both general and specific motor actions”

“both the dancer and the quarterback are excellent examples of directed movement . . . . movement that is directed, monitored, and modified by the visual system”

“undoubtedly, if general motor controls are lacking, the more specialized movement patterns will be restricted or inefficient”

# Skeffington Re-visited– A Hierarchical Model of Vision

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*So it would seem “Vision is Motor”*

*How much of this do you incorporate into your developmental vision programs?*

*At SCCO, Angels and Standing balance = no way, refer to OT*

*You’ll never know how bad your patients are at these things until you try them*

*Alternatively, Sutton’s Mind Body Evaluation (Lincoln Oseretsky TOMP)*

Still learning

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