

Spotting Red Flags

A Checklist for Teachers, Parents & Caregivers

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The following behaviors are often related to possible difficulties in visual functioning. The quickest way to spot these unusual behaviors is to observe a child “in action” – participating in normal everyday activities. Playing, putting on shoes and jackets, eating, drinking....all the activities that parents, caregivers, and teachers observe them doing each day!

Please take a moment to assess your child on the following behaviors. If one or more of the following behaviors is exhibited, the existence of a vision concern is possible.

Does the child:

1. ___ stumble or walk into walls as he explores familiar environments?
2. ___ appear awkward during running or climbing activities (too stiff or limp)?
3. ___ have difficulty with movement sequences (e.g., Simon Says)?
4. ___ walk on his toes frequently?
5. ___ have difficulty recognizing right/left –up/down directions (on self or on other people/objects)?
6. ___ react too quickly or too slowly to moving stimuli (e.g. when playing catch)?
7. ___ need to touch and grab things before beginning a task?
8. ___ hold crayon or pencil awkwardly, at times switching hands?
9. ___ apply too much or too little pressure on a crayon or writing tool?
10. ___ move restlessly in his chair during close work activities (games, reading, paper-&-pencil tasks)?
11. ___ lean on his hand, rest his head on the table or lean close to his work?
12. ___ rub his eyes or forehead, or put his hands over his eyes periodically during close work?
13. ___ turn his body to one side or tilt his head to one side consistently while working at a table-top task?
14. ___ appear to be looking through you or avoiding eye contact during activities he enjoys?
15. ___ hold books or toys too close to his eyes during play or reading?

Additional Observations to Note

Have you observed:

1. ___ eye drift in or out consistently?
2. ___ eye drift in or out inconsistently?
3. ___ fast movements of the eye with or without movement activity?
4. ___ tearing or redness of the eyes?
5. ___ excessive blinking or squinting?