

EDUCATOR'S CHECKLIST OF OBSERVABLE CLUES OF POSSIBLE VISION PROBLEMS (ABCs)

APPEARANCE OF EYES

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

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF VISUAL PROBLEMS

- ☐ Head turns as reads across page
- ☐ Loses place frequently during reading
- ☐ Needs finger or marker to keep place
- ☐ Short attention span in reading or copying
- ☐ Frequently omits words
- ☐ Writes up- or downhill on paper
- ☐ Rereads or skips lines unknowingly
- ☐ Orients drawings poorly on page
- ☐ 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 activities
- ☐ Extreme lack of orientation, placement of words or drawings on page
- ☐ Writes crookedly, poorly spaced; cannot stay on ruled lines
- ☐ Misaligns both horizontal and vertical series of numbers
- ☐ Uses hand as "spacer" to control spacing and alignment on page
- ☐ Repeatedly confuses left-right directions
- ☐ Fails to recognize same word in next sentence or paragraph
- ☐ Reverses letters and/or words in writing and copying
- ☐ Difficulty recognizing minor differences
- ☐ Repeatedly confuses words with similar beginnings and endings
- ☐ Fails to visualize what is read silently or aloud
- ☐ Whispers to self for reinforcement while reading silently
- ☐ Quickly loses interest in reading

- ☐ Blinks excessively at desk tasks or reading
- ☐ Holds book too closely; face too close to desk
- ☐ Makes errors in copying from chalkboard to paper
- ☐ Squints to see chalkboard, or request to move closer
- ☐ Rubs eyes during or after short periods of visual activity
- ☐ Blinks to clear chalkboard after reading or writing
- ☐ Difficulty remembering what is read
- ☐ Trouble finishing written timed assignments
- ☐ Avoids near work activities

COMPLAINTS WHEN USING EYES AT NEAR

- ☐ Headaches in forehead or temples
- ☐ Burning or itchy eyes after reading or desk work
- ☐ Print blurs after reading a short time
- ☐ Complaints of seeing double (diplopia)
- ☐ Words move or “swim” on the page

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS

Completed by: _____

(Information obtained from: American Optometric Association – St. Louis, PA and
Optometric Extension Program Foundation – Santa Ana, CA)