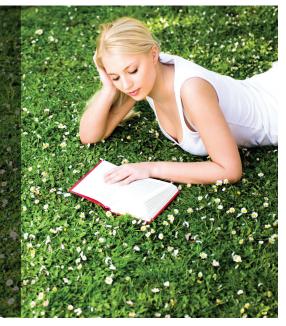
# How Can You Read if You Can't See?

Did you know that up to the age of 12, 80% of all learning takes place visually? Yet 70% of fourth-graders cannot read at grade level.



### Vision Impacts Learning, Reading

Vision problems can slow children's development, preventing them from keeping up with their classmates academically and socially.

- One-quarter of school-age children have a vision problem that can affect learning.
- One-half of children living in poverty have poor eyesight.
- Only one in 10 children with vision problems wears eyeglasses.
- 66% to 74% of adults who have trouble reading fail vision screenings.
- Eyeglasses help remove roadblocks to success for many adults and children.

#### Signs of Visual Problems

Your child may not know that he or she has a vision problem, so look for these signs:

- Getting lost on the page while reading.
- Difficulty copying from one page to another.
- Skipping or omitting words while reading.
- Avoiding close work.

#### A Lifelong Struggle

There is a close relationship between the inability to read and school dropout rates, truancy rates, crime rates and low wages.

- 75% of school dropouts report reading problems.
- About half of the nation's unemployed youth ages 16-21 are unable to read.
- 60% of America's prison inmates can't read. Some states even determine how many prison beds will be needed by the number of fourth-graders who don't read well.

## Making the Connection: Learning Disability? ADD?\* Vision Problem?

Those who have undetected or untreated vision problems include:

- 60% of children who have been labeled as problem learners or diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder.
- 70% of juvenile delinquents.

For both children and adults, regular comprehensive eye exams and needed corrective eyewear are essential tools for success.

\*Attention Deficit Disorder

Sources: American Optometric Association, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, Eyecare Business Magazine, Reading Is Fundamental, Children's Defense Fund, National Education Association, Learning Disability Basics, Essilor/Vision Foundation, IES National Center for Education Statistics.

