

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, EssilorVision Foundation, IES National Center for Education Statistics.

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