

# Detecting Vision Loss



**H**ow can you tell if a student may be having difficulty with their vision? Although the symptoms listed below are not a diagnosis of a visual impairment, they may indicate an eye condition and should be checked by a physician.

- Able to see things at a distance but misses or leaves out words when reading
- Uses finger or marker as guide when reading after fifth grade
- Has difficulty remembering what has been read
- Persistently reverses letters, numbers, or words after second grade
- Does poorly in math due to visual similarities in numbers
- Has difficulty remembering, identifying and reproducing basic geometric forms, analyzing tables and graphs, or identifying items under microscope
- Has difficulty with sequential concepts
- Shows poor eye-hand coordination when copying from a chalkboard or whiteboard, throwing or catching a ball, buttoning clothing or tying shoes
- Trips, falls over, or runs into things frequently when walking or running
- Finds it very difficult adjusting to extreme lighting changes—movie theater, outdoors at night, or into/out of bright sunlight
- Appears to have a short attention span for the student's age or frequently daydreams

## Appearance of the Eyes

- Eyes crossed (turning in)
- Eyes turning out
- Involuntary movement of eyes
- Reddened, watering eyes
- Encrusted eyelids
- Eyes smaller than normal
- Excessive blinking or rubbing eyes

## Behavioral Indications of Possible Vision Difficulty

- Turns or tilts head frequently to read or look at something
- Closes one eye frequently to read, watch TV, or focus on task
- Unable to see details on TV, leaves on tree, or read street signs at 20 feet
- Has difficulty reading menu at fast food restaurant, especially prices
- Places face close to book or desk when reading or writing (14-18 inches away is normal)
- Loses place while reading or writing, especially from line to line

The above information should not be construed as medical advice. If a student has several of these problems, it's recommended that she or he see an eye-care physician.

**Questions?** For more information, please contact the Lighthouse Early Intervention or Transition Specialists at (850) 942-3658 or toll-free: (888) 827-6033; email: [info@lighthousebigbend.org](mailto:info@lighthousebigbend.org), or 3071 Highland Oaks Terrace, Tallahassee, FL 32301