

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Teachers, parents, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists and therapists.

January, 2004

We are titling this newsletter CONNECTIONS because the goal of this newsletter is to help illuminate the connection between VISION AND LEARNING. Dr. Cline is a former teacher and now an optometrist. Having both a background in education and vision. Most people may not make a connection between vision and learning because most people do not know what the process of vision is. Vision is not a given. We are not born with this process of vision we earn and learn it. A child is born with a clean slate so to speak and this slate of vision is written on through interaction with the child's environment.

Vision gives you the ability to know where you are in space, to know where something else is in space, to identify what you see in space and then to tell someone else what you located and identified. Vision is also composed of the skills of eye tracking, eye focusing to get an image clear, eye teaming skills to combine two images into one image. It also lets us perceive and understand what we see through visual perception skills and the visual motor skills that combine the use of the eye, brain and hand.

One of the problems with what I do is most of what I deal with in vision you cannot see. We cannot see focusing. We cannot see how another child sees. Even if a child sees blurry or doubled he/she may not tell you because they think it is normal.

Over the past 15 years we have worked with many children and adults who had problems with their visual systems that did not allow them to get information or function the way they wanted to.

When I was a teacher I never considered vision as a possible problem when a child was having difficulty learning. Now that I understand what vision is I can easily see how a vision problem like:

- ✓ Eye tracking
- ✓ Over-converging at the page of print
- ✓ Under-converging at the page of print
- ✓ Focusing problems
- ✓ Visual closure problems
- ✓ Visual memory problems
- ✓ Visual discrimination problems
- ✓ Laterality/body schema problems

Can lead to learning problems.

Enclosed is a FREE checklist to ask your students who are having learning problems. If the child has checked any of the items on the list you will want to have his VISION checked not his EYES.

Remember a vision check will assess all or most of the areas mentioned above.

FREE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY IS A VISION SCREENING DONE BY MULVANE VISION CARE AND WICHITA FAMILY VISION. Take advantage of this free assessment.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Developing Your Child's Intelligence. This is a great work done by G.N. Getman. Dr. Getman outlines the importance of motor movement in the process of developing intelligence. This is a great read.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH:

Members.aol.com/TwoEyeDox

MULVANE VISION CARE
777-0022
Ask for Kathy or Clara

WICHITA FAMILY VISION
722-1001
Ask for Maryruth