

## **VISION CONCERNS (Early Childhood)**

The process of receiving vision services begins when there are concerns about a child's vision. The following is a list of the ABC's of vision problems. If a student is experiencing difficulties using their vision, the first step is to take the student to an optometrist or ophthalmologist to determine the cause, receive a visual diagnosis, approximate visual acuity, and determine if the student needs to be referred for school based vision services.

### **APPEARANCE**

- One or both eyes turn inward or outward, or one is slightly higher or lower than the other eye
- Crusty or red eyelids or red eyes
- Eyes that are in constant, rapid motion
- Drooping eyelid(s)
- Pupils of different sizes, or different reactions to light and accommodations
- Glands that are enlarged, inflamed, or otherwise infected
- Excessive tearing, light sensitivity, lid spasms

### **BEHAVIOR**

- Lack of or reduced eye contact
- Shows poor eye muscle coordination
- Covers or closes one eye for critical seeing
- Thrusts head forward to see distance objects
- Tilts head to one side for critical seeing
- Tries to "brush away" a blur
- Rubs eyes often or blinks often while reading or looking at books
- Frowns or squints when looking at a or trying to see distance objects
- Stumbles often over objects, is awkward
- Holds book, toy, or picture too close or too far away

### **COMPLAINTS**

- Sensitivity to light
- Burning or itching of eyes or eyelids
- Seeing double, or blurred vision
- Headaches, usually after a critical visual task
- Nausea or dizziness

### **SCHOOL RELATED**

- Difficulty with handwriting
- Needs more light for viewing than expected
- Head moves instead of eyes when reading or looking at pictures
- Difficulty with cutting
- Difficulty with tracing activities
- Difficulty with fine motor activities
- Difficulty with eye-hand coordination
- Difficulty maintaining visual attention