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Learning Related Vision Disorders - Basic Diagnosis and Treatment

This course is designed for general vision providers to identify and diagnose common vision disorders that can affect learning skills, including knowledge of risk factors and interventions.

- I. What are the common symptoms of pediatric vision problems that can affect learning?
 - A. Checklist of symptoms.
 - B. Headache – when is it a visual symptom.

- II. A detailed history is essential. This can be done by having the parents fill out a form at home in advance of the exam. It should include the following in particular:
 - A. General medical and current health history (standard review of systems).
 - B. Early health history, particularly:
 - a. Ear infections.
 - b. Head injuries.
 - c. High fevers.
 - d. Serious injuries.
 - C. Developmental history including:
 - a. Pregnancy birth and delivery.
 - b. Developmental milestones.
 - c. Concerns and interventions.
 - D. Does the child have complaints or do the parents/teachers see signs of a problem?
 - a. How long have the problems been apparent.
 - b. How severe are the symptoms.
 - c. Who referred for care.

- III. Diagnostic testing.
 - A. Acuity – age appropriate testing and what it really means.

- B. Retinoscopy – what it tells the doctor.
 - C. Subjective testing – how reliable is it.
 - D. Binocular testing.
 - i. Convergence near point.
 - ii. Maddox rod.
 - iii. Keystone skills.
 - iv. Far binocular screening (Worth 4 dot).
 - v. Randot stereograms.
 - E. Observation of posture -Davis Visual scan test.
 - F. Ocular motor testing – making this simple test more than pass/fail.
 - G. Review of normal versus abnormal test responses.
 - H. Threshold of attention.
 - I. Malingering.
- IV. Prescribing lenses for children’s wear.
- A. When should lenses be prescribed for distance acuity.
 - i. Full time versus as-needed wear.
 - ii. Lens materials.
 - iii. Lens types.
 - iv. Contact lenses.
 - B. Nearpoint prescriptions.
 - i. Single vision versus bifocals.
 - ii. Binasal occlusion.
 - iii. Prism.
 - iv. Bifocals.
- V. Home vision therapy what does and does not work.
- VI. Referral to a specialist – when and how to send your patient to a specialist in children’s vision.
- VII. Prevention.
- A. Posture.
 - B. Nutrition.
- VIII. Follow up exam schedules.