

Resources

Articles

1. Vision Therapy: Information for Health Care and Other Allied Professionals. A Joint Organizational Policy Statement of the American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association.
2. Vision, Learning and Dyslexia: A Joint Organizational Policy Statement of the American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association.
3. Cooper J. Summary of Research on the Efficacy of Vision Therapy for Specific Visual Dysfunctions. *Journal of Behavioral Optometry* 1998;9(5):115-119.
4. Mazow ML, France TD, et al. Acute accommodative and convergence insufficiency. *Transactions of the American Ophthalmological Society* 1989; 87:158-173.

Suggested Reading

Vision: Its Development in Infant and Child. Arnold Gesell, M.D., Frances L. Ilg, M.D., Glenna Bullis. Reprinted by arrangement with Lippincott-Raven Publishers by the Optometric Extension Program Foundation, 1998.

Eye Q and the Efficient Learner. James Kimple. Optometric Extension Program Foundation, 1997.

Vision and School Success. George B. Spache, Ph.D., Lillian R. Hinds, Ph.D., Lois Bing, O.D. Optometric Extension Program Foundation, 1992.

The Suddenly Successful Student. Hazel Dawkins, E. Edelman, O.D., C. Forkiotis, O.D. The Writing Team, 1990.

Your Child's Vision: A Parent's Guide to Seeing, Growing and Developing. Richard S. Kavner, O.D. Fireside, 1985.

The Eyecare Revolution: Prevent and Reverse Common Vision Problems. Robert Abel, Jr., M.D. Kensington Books, 1999.

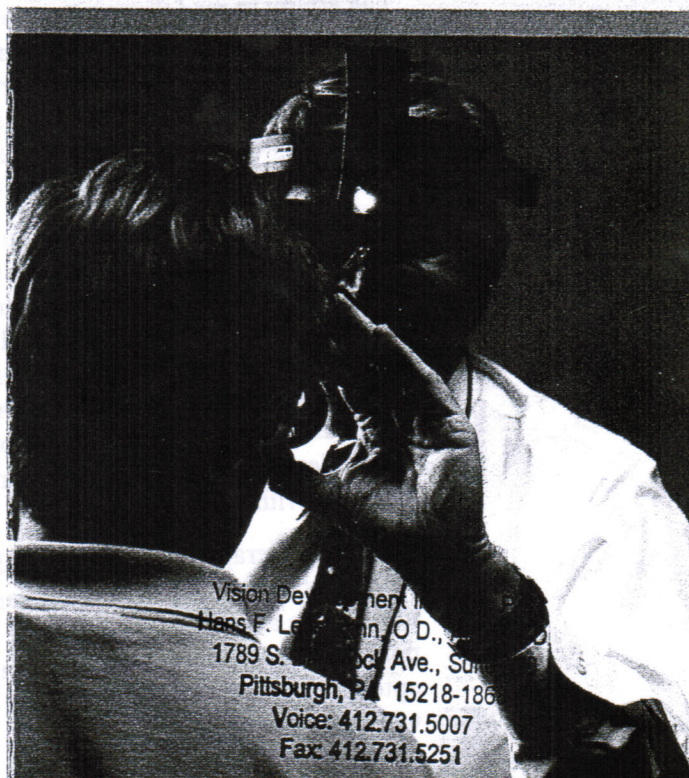


**Optometric Extension Program
Foundation, Inc.**

1921 E. Carnegie Ave., Ste. 3-L
Santa Ana, CA 92705-5510
(949) 250-8070/(949) 250-8157 FAX
oep@oep.org/www.oep.org

(A nonprofit foundation for education and research in vision)
Copyright, Optometric Extension Program Foundation, 2001
#B132

A SECOND OPINION ABOUT VISION THERAPY



Vision Development Institute
Hans F. Leamon, O.D., F.A.C.O.
1789 S. Rock Ave., Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1866
Voice: 412.731.5007
Fax: 412.731.5251



OPTOMETRIC EXTENSION PROGRAM

A Second Opinion About Vision Therapy

Getting a second opinion about a health care procedure is a common way of gathering additional information, exploring treatment options, or ensuring that all aspects of a problem have been considered. When selecting a professional for a second opinion regarding vision therapy, it is important to understand some basic facts about the visual process and that doctors from different fields may look at vision in different ways.

Seek A Thorough Evaluation

Children learn and develop vision skills through many significant, early life experiences. Clarity of sight, usually measured by reading the small letters on the eye chart, is only a piece of the visual process. The ability to read the smallest letters is not an indication of perfect vision. Other fundamental parts of the visual process that affect the ability to read or learn, such as eye coordination, eye focusing and visual perceptual activities must also be evaluated.

Vision therapy is a treatment used to help patients of any age acquire the vision skills and abilities needed for learning and overall performance. In cases of acquired brain injury, it is often an integral part of the rehabilitation of the patient. Vision therapy is a safe and effective treatment for problems in visual development and for problems that interfere with visual function.^{1,2,3}

Vision therapy is a specialty field of eye care. Doctor's who provide this service have undertaken a significant amount of postgraduate education. A select number of optometrists offer vision therapy as a specialty within their practices.

Consult A Professional With Appropriate Training

When obtaining a second opinion, it is critical to consult a professional with the necessary expertise and training to provide a thoroughly informed opinion. Pediatricians, ophthalmologists, optometrists, school nurses, drivers' license testing agents, and others can measure sight as part of a vision examination or screening. When seeking a second opinion about a sight problem, any optometrist or ophthalmologist is appropriately trained to provide an evaluation. However, opinions regarding visual development and vision rehabilitation should involve a Doctor of Optometry who has qualifications and experience in vision therapy.

Both optometrists and ophthalmologists receive training in the examination, diagnosis and treatment of eye and vision problems. This might suggest that any eye doctor would have the training and experience necessary to render a second opinion. However, as a prominent pediatric ophthalmologist has noted, many ophthalmologists do not adequately diagnose or treat visual conditions that can be improved through vision therapy.⁴

When obtaining a second opinion about vision therapy, select an optometrist trained in the developmental and behavioral aspects of vision. These are the only professionals fully qualified to provide an informed opinion. To obtain the name of a qualified practitioner, contact the Optometric Extension Program Foundation (949-250-8070 or www.oep.org) or the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (888-268-3770 or www.covd.org).