

READING RED FLAGS IN THE CLASSROOM

Why Some Struggling Readers Don't Just Need More Practice

When a child has the intelligence, support, and willingness to learn, but reading is still a daily struggle, vision may be part of the problem. This one-page guide helps educators recognize the subtle classroom signs of a **visual processing or visual efficiency issue** that can interfere with reading, even if the child has 20/20 eyesight.

Classroom Red Flags to Watch For

Tracking & Eye Movement Issues

- ☐ Frequently loses place while reading
- ☐ Uses a finger or ruler to keep place
- ☐ Skips words or lines, or rereads the same line
- ☐ Poor fluency despite strong decoding skills

Eye Teaming & Focusing Difficulties

- ☐ Complains of tired or sore eyes after reading
- ☐ Rubs eyes or blinks excessively during near work
- ☐ Covers one eye or tilts head when reading
- ☐ Can't sustain attention during reading tasks

Visual Processing Challenges

- ☐ Confuses similar-looking words (e.g., was/saw, them/then)
- ☐ Reverses letters or words past age 7
- ☐ Difficulty with remembering spelling words or what words they just saw / read
- ☐ Struggles with the spacing and alignment of their handwriting

Why it Matters?

These signs are not just academic—they may indicate an underlying **functional vision problem**, such as poor visual tracking, focusing, or coordination. These issues can't be detected by standard school vision screenings.

If you notice several of these red flags, consider referring the student for a **developmental or functional vision evaluation**.