



GENERAL OPTOMETRY CHILDREN'S VISION VISION THERAPY CONTACT LENS SPORTS VISION

Quotes from Physicians Regarding Vision Therapy

Psychiatrist & Physician

Dr. Katherine Donovan, a psychiatrist from Charleston, S.C., was one of those parents who didn't give up, "It wasn't until my own child had problems with reading that I discovered that my medical training was missing a very valuable piece of information which turned out to be the key to helping my daughter, Lily. While I had taken Lily to many ophthalmologists and learning specialists, desperate to understand why this very bright child still could not read well, or write legibly at age 12, I always got the same answers: 'her vision's fine and 'she's dyslexic.'"

"As a physician, I had been taught that vision therapy was controversial and could not treat learning disabilities. However, my personal experience with my daughter proved to me that vision therapy worked, when nothing else did," Dr. Donovan shares. "While vision therapy cannot treat learning disabilities, per se, it absolutely corrected a vision problem which was blocking Lily from being able to learn. After a visit with a developmental optometrist who tested over 15 visual skills critical to reading and learning, I was shocked to learn that Lily was seeing double out to three FEET—which meant that when she tried to read, the words were double. No wonder she hated to read!"

Following optometric vision therapy, "Lily now reads 300 pages a day, in her free time; she puts down 'reading' as her favorite hobby; and she has a 95-average at Buist Academy with NO help from me on her homework! Prior to this, I'd been spending three to four hours each night, for many years, tutoring Lily," Dr. Donovan shares with delight.

Physician and Medical Expert Witness for Medico-Legal Cases

Even though there is a wealth of optometric research which proves vision therapy works, as Dr. Donovan mentioned there is false information in the medical community about vision therapy. This can be confusing for parents, especially when it comes from their child's pediatrician.

Dr. Joseph Manley, a physician and medical expert witness for medico-legal cases, states, "The conclusions (particularly the failure to recommend vision therapy for children likely to benefit from it) of the American Academy of Pediatrics report on *Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia and Vision* are based on exclusion of the most relevant data and inconsistent application of the Academy's stated criteria for selecting evidence. They fail to acknowledge abundant published and anecdotal evidence supporting the use of vision therapy. This overlooked evidence includes controlled trials, observational studies,

OPTOMETRIC CENTER FOR FAMILY VISION CARE AND VISION THERAPY

CAROLE L. HONG, OD, FCOVD KRISTINA STASKO, OD MACSON Y. LEE, OD
1234 Cherry Street, San Carlos, CA 94070 • phone 650.593.1661 • fax 650.595.5203
www.familyvisioncare.org • www.visionhelp.com

case reports and consensus of experts - the same kinds of data that underpin the daily practice of medical professionals.”

Neurologists & Leading Clinicians on Learning Disabilities

Brock Eide, M.D., M.A. and Fernette Eide, M.D., leading clinicians and writers on learning disabilities state, “In spite of the very positive research findings validating the role vision plays in learning, some are still claiming visual dysfunction plays little or no role in the reading challenges that dyslexics face. This is a shame. When we look specifically at the results of studies performed to address specific visual issues, the evidence supporting visual therapy is quite strong.”

The Eides run the Eide Neurolearning Clinic in Edmonds, Washington, are authors of the popular book, *The Mislabeled Child: How Understanding Your Child's Unique Learning Style Can Open the Door to Success*, and lecture throughout the U.S. and Canada to parents, educators, therapists, and doctors. Drs. Eides have published extensively in the fields of gifted education, learning disabilities, and twice exceptionalities such as giftedness and dyslexia, and served as consultants to the President's Council on Bioethics.

“While not all children or adults with dyslexia have visual processing problems, many --at least two-thirds in some studies-- do. This makes sense from a neurological standpoint, because several of the structural neurological features associated with dyslexia appear to predispose to visual difficulties,” Dr. Brock Eide adds.

“Not surprisingly, several types of visual difficulties are more common in dyslexic than non-dyslexic children. In one study of dyslexic children, just one type of visual problem, near-point convergence insufficiency, was present in 30-40% of the dyslexic children, compared to just 20% of controls. As can be seen from this control figure, visual processing problems are also quite common in non-dyslexic school-age children,” Eide continues.

Dr. Fernette Eide explains, “The bottom line is that visual problems are common, though not universal, in children who struggle to read; and optometric vision therapy can help address visual problems in children with significant visual dysfunction. A good visual examination is an important part of the workup of every struggling reader.”

***For more information about the critical link
between vision and learning, please contact:***

Carole L. Hong, OD, FCOVD ▪ Kristina Stasko, OD ▪ Macson Y. Lee, OD
Optometric Center for Family Vision Care & Vision Therapy
1234 Cherry Street ▪ San Carlos, CA 94070 ▪ **650.593.1661**
www.FamilyVisionCare.org
