

# Get on board.



Help get the word out about children's vision care. Join the Back-in-School Program.

## Eastern Washington Case Studies

The stories below are from optometric physicians and children in Eastern Washington. They illustrate the need for complete eye examinations – measuring sight acuity as well as eye health and vision perception. The case studies also demonstrate the need for parents to continue to ask questions relating to vision when a child's schoolwork suffers.

Stephen, age 13, 8th Grade	Ryder, age 8, 2nd Grade	Lloyd, age 14, 8th Grade
<p><b>Problem:</b> In the 2nd grade, Stephen enjoyed reading and was a good student, but numbers flipped around when he viewed them. In addition, he had difficulty seeing the board. When his aunt noticed in a family photo that one eye was bright (red eye reflex or more commonly known as red eye) and the other eye was dark, she contacted an optometric physician.</p> <p><b>Evaluation:</b> Stephen's optometric physician diagnosed intermittent central suppression. This condition caused his left eye to periodically shut off its picture for about three seconds at a time. The picture would return for two to five seconds, then shut off again. This sequence repeated continuously creating frustration and interfering with Stephen's ability to learn.</p> <p><b>Solution:</b> Stephen's condition was treated through vision therapy. One technique involved using a stereoscope, an optical instrument which forces both eyes to work together to complete a single three-dimensional image. After a consistent regimen of vision therapy, Stephen is now in Jr. High, excelling 1 to 2 years ahead in math and science. He has even created his own Web site. The only problem he has now is keeping busy in school.</p>	<p><b>Problem:</b> Ryder was a very shy, quiet, five year old boy. He had glasses with a very low prescription that didn't seem to help his visual acuity at all. Ryder's optometric physician used a device called an MTI Photoscreener to determine that Ryder could be very nearsighted.</p> <p><b>Evaluation:</b> After additional testing, Ryder's optometric physician discovered that he was extremely nearsighted with some astigmatism. When Ryder wore some trial lenses for the appropriate visual correction, a personality transformation occurred. The shy child suddenly sat up straight and looked around as if he was seeing for the first time.</p> <p><b>Solution:</b> Some new glasses were prescribed, and Ryder visited his optometric physician after wearing them for about 3 months. He was a completely different child. He walked around and looked at things, touched things, and acted interested in his world. He became much more outgoing, and could recognize people from more than a few feet away. He is now acting like a normal eight year old – playing with things, getting into trouble, and having fun with friends. Ryder continues to advance in school and is starting to become a little athlete as well.</p>	<p><b>Problem:</b> Lloyd was receiving failing grades in his classes despite testing at an above average intelligence level. He was frustrated to the point of behavioral problems that eventually led to suspension from school. He also struggled to compete in his favorite sport, baseball. Lloyd visited several therapists who diagnosed him with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and prescribed medication. When Lloyd finally told his mother that "words seemed to float off the page," an appointment was made with his optometric physician.</p> <p><b>Evaluation:</b> The solution to Lloyd's difficulties was not evident through sight acuity testing. Lloyd was seeing 20/20, and already had reading glasses. Further testing found Lloyd had a tendency for his eyes to over-aim at reading distance and for his left eye to intermittently shut off vision. Lloyd started vision therapy, and worked on his eye "exercises" over the next two and a half months.</p> <p><b>Solution:</b> As a result, Lloyd's attitude improved drastically, and he was able to retake a number of tests. He even qualified for Advance Placement classes his first year of high school. His hand-eye coordination also changed dramatically, and along with it, his baseball game. "I can see the ball now," he said.</p>