

Letter Reversals? **New Program** Gets 87% Success

LIVONIA-in a recent clinical study, Dr. Jacobl, optometrist, (leachers and psychologists) have shown that over 87 percent of children with significant roversals can be "cured" with significant roversals can be "cured" within 10 weeks. Confusing "b" and "d" or "was" and "saw" are often symptoms associated with reading difficulties of dysiexie. Most children quickly learn how to differentiate a "b" from a "d", but some don't. This is due to more basic underlying disorders and factors.

For years there has been disagreement as to the cause, and many theories have developed, including: the child sees backwards, the brain's dominant side is overpowering, the child relates to the hand he or she writes with, the child is hyperactive, or the child has discrimination problems. However, studies have shown that none of these are adequate explanations.

Current research indicates the major causes are: poor visual memory (the ability to recall a visual image), visualization (the ability to create a mental image), and visual association (the ability to link what you see with something you saw, heard, felt, in the next)

For example, if you're asked to look up, you look up. But if asked to look to the right, you're likely to first think about the hand you use for writing.

"Up" can be linked with the head or the sky and "down" with a foot or gravity. But because both sides of our body are so identical, the links aren't as strong. Therefore, there is a confusion about right and left.

Improve the association, visualization, and recall skills and you'll eliminate the

"Parents are often told that the child will "Parents are often fold that the child will outgrow the problem. And this is true..but misleading," says Dr. Jacobi, "Continued exposure to letters and numbers will roduce reversals, but if the underlying causes are left untreated, learning will still be retarded and school performance will

The treatment program is available in over 100 locations across the country, and it is very intense.

The aim is to identify and correct the core disorder, because much of what we learn depends upon a well-functioning visual

Dr. Jacobi indicates that a problem with raversals is only one of a number of symptoms of poor visual processing skills that severely affect learning. Others

Working slow
Poor comprehension
Skipping lines
Poor memory
Poor attention span
Stoppy writing
Careless errors
Using excessive energy

Suburban Optometrics provides a free screening and consultation to determine if any of these behaviors are due to visual processing disorder. Therapy, if required, is covered by most major medical policies. To schedule your child (ages six to 16) for the free screening call 525-8170.

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