If you would like to learn more about eye tracking disorders these links may help you.

Behavioral Optometrists are trained to do eye tracking testing in order to diagnose eye tracking disorders. Pediatricians are not trained to do that kind of evaluation. This is not tested by reading the eye chart on the wall. Just a ‘visual acuity’ test done by a health care professional (even by an ophthalmologist) is not the diagnostic tool that can make this diagnosis. If your child has never seen a Behavioral Optometrist for an ‘eye tracking test’ then they have never been tested to see if they have an eye tracking disorder.

Note that sometimes a reading specialist at school or a school teacher is the first person to suggest that your child may have an eye tracking disorder, if the child is struggling to learn to read or if they are already reading but now are having reading comprehension struggles.

Question: What are eye tracking problems? What is convergence insufficiency?

Article: “Vision & Reading

The following are excerpts from an article on Vision, Learning and Nutrition” by Donald J. Getz, OD, FCOVD, FAAO

This site is a good starting place, it has a listing of different vision and eye tracking conditions with summaries of each and some symptoms listed. It briefly mentions a link with the child’s nutritional intake at the end to poor nutritional intake possibly being correlated to problems with learning.

http://www.children-special-needs.org/vision_therapy/esophoria_reading.html
Article: What is Convergence Insufficiency (CI)?

See also the links on this page.

http://www.convergenceinsufficiency.org/

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College of Optometrists in Vision Development website.

Quote
Mission: Our mission is to serve as an advocate for comprehensive vision care emphasizing a developmental and behavioral approach. COVD certifies professional competency in vision therapy, serves as an informational and educational resource, and advances research and clinical care in vision development and therapy.
End quote

This website provides articles, press releases, and “in the news’ links.

Home page:
http://www.covd.org/

Articles of note on this site:

Article: The 20/20 Myth

Article: Signs and Symptoms

Article: Insurance Coverage for Vision Therapy

Locate a Doctor Near You (see sidebar on home page)
http://www.covd.org/
Convergence Insufficiency page on EyeMDLink.com site


Wikipedia entry on Convergence Insufficiency


Question: Can a child with a 20/20 vision test result have convergence insufficiency?

Article: Success in School: 20/20 Eyesight is Not Enough!

http://www.visiontherapystories.org/2020_eyesight_vision.html

Article: Success with Visual Disabilities: Convergence Insufficiency

http://www.visiontherapystories.org/convergence_insufficiency.html
Question: Is surgery necessary to treat an eye tracking problem?

An ophthalmologist may recommend eye muscle surgery (possibly as the first or only recommended treatment). A non-surgical option is vision therapy with a Behavioral Optometrist. Read more info here about what ophthalmologists have to say about eye muscle surgery.

http://www.strabismus.org/surgery_crossed_eyes.html

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Treatment of Eye Tracking Problems

A.

Eye Exercises can be done in the doctor’s office and sometimes at home. They also go by these names:

Orthoptic Therapy
Orthoptics

Wikipedia entry for orthoptics

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthoptics

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Orthoptist/Orthoptics page on the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus’ website

http://www.aapos.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=229
B.

Light therapy treatment is another type of therapy that can be done instead of or combined with orthoptics.

Light therapy also goes by these other names:

Syntonic **Phototherapy**

Syntonics

Optometric Phototherapy

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**Article: What is Syntonics?** At College of Syntonic Optometry's site


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**About: Syntonics (Optometric Phototherapy) at Dr. Rummel's site (a New Jersey Behavioral Optometrist)**


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**About: Optometric Phototherapy (Syntonics) at Australasian College of Behavioural Optometrists’ site (Australian spelling, not an error)**

Find out about co-diagnosis or possible mis-diagnosis with ADD/ADHD:

Eye tracking problems may cause misdiagnosis of ADD/ADHD or children with ADD/ADHD might also have eye tracking problems

http://www.add-adhd.org/convergence_insufficiency.html

quote from article:

Regarding the article and study on this page, Dr. Granet of the Children's Eye Center commented, “We don't know if convergence insufficiency makes ADHD worse or if convergence insufficiency is misdiagnosed as ADHD. What we do know is that more research must be done on this subject and that patients diagnosed with ADHD should also be evaluated for convergence insufficiency and treated accordingly.”

Another site with an ADD relevance

Article: Scientific Studies on Connection Between Vision Disorder (Convergence Insufficiency) and ADHD

http://www.optometrists.org/therapists_teachers/convergence_insufficiency.html

An overlap with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome?

On various sites it has been mentioned that double vision caused by convergence insufficiency may be the cause of some eye contact symptoms or delayed reading seen
in children who have been diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome or Autism. Since children on the autism spectrum sometimes struggle with learning and were never tested for eye tracking problems, some suggest checking for the presence of an eye tracking problem and seeking vision therapy if an eye tracking diagnosis is made. The New York Times article (linked to below) mentions a child with this situation.

In a related article in The New York Times from 2002, a Yale study suggests that doing eye tracking testing in children younger than three, may help them make an earlier diagnosis of Autism.

Article: Experiment Offers Look Through Eyes of Autism by John O’Neil


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Dianne Craft’s advice:

Dianne Craft is a special education teacher with over 25 years of experience, and is a nutritionist. She homeschooled her child, and is a homeschool conference speaker. She believes there is a link between nutrition, the body and the brain’s ability to learn. She feels there is a nutritional component to learning disabilities, learning struggles, children with allergies and children on the Autism spectrum—all who can benefit from changes in diet.

You can read more of her articles on her website Dianne Craft.org and learn about her brain integration therapy which parents can do with their children at home. She was a speaker at the 2008 MassHope Christian Homeschooling Convention and mentioned in one of her lectures that eye tracking conditions and dyslexia are sometimes seen in children with ADD/ADHD or perhaps they are not diagnosed with the learning problems and mis-diagnosed with ADD/ADHD.
Dianne Craft’s website:

http://www.diannecraft.org/

Article: Visual Processing Dysfunction Characteristics by Dianne Craft posted on HSLDA’s Struggling Learner page. Follow links at bottom for more information.

http://www.hslda.org/strugglinglearner/sn_visual.asp

If you are an HSLDA member, as part of your membership services, you can have a phone consult with Dianne Craft or one of HSLDA’s other special needs consultants.

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Newspaper Articles about Eye Tracking Problems


Quote

The letters swim on the page, giving the children headaches. Children try to compensate by bobbing their heads back and forth to constantly refocus their eyes, or shutting one eye and reading with the other. They invariably fall behind and become frustrated with reading, Orfield said. Most do not report a problem reading because they do not realize that their experience is abnormal, she said. And administrators often mislabel these children as suffering from a learning disorder, such at attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or dyslexia, when in fact it is their vision that is impaired.

"It's a hidden disability," Harris said. "There's a strong implication that we may be over-medicating our kids." Vision therapy, he said, can make a huge difference.
"Kids who go through my program make a 73 percent jump in reading, on average," Harris said. "This is a school problem that should be treated in school. It's much less expensive to do it in school than in private practice."

"The good news, Harris said, is that the human eye can be retrained to visualize properly. The only hurdle is access to the proper medical professionals and treatments.

End quote

http://www.visiontherapystories.org/nonverbal_learning_NLD.html


Quote

“Dr. David Granet, a professor of ophthalmology and pediatrics at the University of California, San Diego, said: “Everyone is familiar with A.D.H.D. and A.D.D., but not with eye problems, especially not with convergence insufficiency. But we don’t want to send kids for remedial reading and education efforts if they have an eye problem. This should be part of the protocol for eye doctors.”

In 2005, Dr. Granet studied 266 patients with convergence insufficiency. Nearly 10 percent also had diagnoses of attention deficit or hyperactivity — three times that of the general population. The reverse also proved true: examining the hospital records of 1,700 children with A.D.H.D., Dr. Granet and colleagues found that 16 percent also had convergence insufficiency, three times the normal rate.

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End quote
A Note About Other Medical, Psychological Conditions and Learning Disorders

The above linked articles and websites have stated that sometimes children with eye tracking problems also may have an ADD or ADHD diagnosis, or be diagnosed as being on the Autism Spectrum. In some of the above articles it was also mentioned that sometimes the child also has a diagnosis of (or was treated for or was misdiagnosed as having) anxiety disorders, depression, and/or neurofibromatosis.

Children with an eye tracking problem may also have dyslexia, dysgraphia or a learning disability diagnosis of a ‘non-verbal learning disorder”. If your children already has one or more of those conditions if there are still having learning struggles and they have the symptoms of an eye tracking problem, you may want to consider a consult with a Behavioral Optometrist to see if an eye tracking disorder is present as well.