Overlooking Vision…

Without a greater awareness of vision and it's critical importance in learning and concentration, students are too easily and conveniently considered for learning disabilities and ADHD. Treating these kinds of cases with strong psychiatric medications is of no help and consequentially, it can steal away a child's self-esteem and self-confidence without the proper diagnosis.

It is most unfortunate that in schools today, visual problems are *secondary* in ruling out a possible cause for poor academics and behavior in students. Instead, psychology has overshadowed the importance of the *primary fundamental of seeing*. It began in the 1990's when the Federal government implemented a modified medical program to address ADD and ADHD in schools and allowed a different definition of the term 'Diagnosis' to exist, unlike medicine, where a diagnosis is arrived at through a differential process involving the ruling out of other possible causes. School systems were given the mandate to identify (diagnose) ADHD in children when 7 out of a list of 9 behaviors are agreed upon to exist in that child by a group usually consisting of educators and assigned health advisors that also includes state-hired pediatricians, psychologists and psychiatrists. Without the proper differential testing that would include an effective visual evaluation by a specially trained optometrist, this medically modified program is a mis-identification (misdiagnosis) just waiting to happen.

Project S.A.V.E

Since 1999, there are two truths that I'm sure of… 1 -Vision problems do not cause ADHD and 2 -Vision problems can lead to ADHD-like symptoms in a child that are too similar to differentiate by other health care professionals. To bring awareness to parents about the mis-identification of ADHD with Visual conditions, Dr. Makini founded Project S.A.V.E., a public awareness project that stands for, 'Supporting Academic & Visual Excellence'. Its purpose and mission is to protect and provide for these at-risk children to have the same opportunity as any other child to reach their full potential in school and in life!

It should never be just about behavior only…

Finding a solution to a student's difficulty in school should never be about behavior only, but should always include the primary visual welfare of a child as it relates to their successful academic development. In reality, a specialized behavioral optometrist is the most effective in helping parents determine if their child has an *undetected* visual condition that is being mistaken for ADHD. **"We need more parents and more health professionals to be made aware of mistaken ADHD and its devastating effects, how to identify these children and how to get them the rightful care they need." , says Dr. Makini.**

Academic Vision Care

Academic Vision Care is offered exclusively at Eyes Plus, Inc. where Dr. Makini purposefully developed a better way of caring for children by studying and relating a child's academic learning performance with their vision. Every child receives an Academic Vision Care assessment with each yearly eye exam at Eyes Plus. This performance-based approach more accurately identifies the visual needs of children, even as early as age 3. Why so early? It can never be too early to know how your child sees, but it can be **too late** to know what they're missing in school and in life. **Over time as a student's successful academic performance increases, so does their self-confidence and self-esteem. Inasmuch as their academic performance declines, so does their self-confidence and self-esteem, which then leads to greater frustration and discouragement**. So, the earlier issues can be discovered and treated, the better it is for the child or student, no matter their age. The more a parent knows about their child's vision, the more they are able to support their child's academic growth, development and achievement levels. It's that simple, yet so very impactful and life-changing!

Contact Us and Join the Cause…

If you have any questions, need to acquire more information or would like to have Dr. Makini speak at your next gathering, please call (808) 674-0744. You may also reach Dr. Makini at drhankmakini@gmail.com.