

Functional Vision Evaluation Report: Richard Crown

Student: Richard Crown

Age: 8 years

Richard has recently moved to a new school district and is seeking the services of a teacher of students with visual impairments. This report was prepared by a teacher of students with visual impairments.

History

School records indicate that Richard was evaluated by his ophthalmologist 10 months ago. In his report, the ophthalmologist indicated that Richard had the hereditary condition ocular albinism, which is lack of pigment in certain parts of the eye. It is usually accompanied by reduced visual acuity, light sensitivity, and involuntary oscillating eye movements (nystagmus). He recorded Richard's visual acuity as 20/160 in the right eye, 20/100 in the left eye, and 20/100 for both eyes. Richard wears eyeglasses, but the prescription was not in the school records. Richard had been receiving services from a teacher of students who are visually impaired in his previous school district and is now attending a regular second grade program. He has been identified as gifted. Richard stated that he regularly goes for eye examinations every summer.

Evaluation

Richard was examined in the school library.

Distance Visual Acuity

On the Lea Symbol Chart (9 line) chart, viewing with spectacle correction, Richard gave the following results:

Right eye:	10/100	Snellen equivalent 20/200
Left eye:	10/80	Snellen equivalent 20/160
Both eyes:	10/80 ⁺¹	Snellen equivalent 20/160 ⁺¹

Richard's distance visual acuity tested in the school environment was measured as slightly lower than his distance visual acuity measured in the clinical setting, where the controlled lighting was likely to promote optimal responses.

Near Visual Acuity

Lea Symbols: Near Vision Card with Noncrowded Symbols

With both eyes viewing with correction, Richard read the 2M spaced symbols with no difficulty at 16 inches (40 cm), which is the standard testing distance. To read smaller print, Richard preferred to hold the card at 6 inches where he read 1 M print with one error. Richard's nystagmus seemed to be less pronounced when he was looking at near symbols than at distant symbols.

Lea Symbols: Near Vision Card with Crowded Symbols

With both eyes viewing with correction on this test that simulates a reading task, Richard read 3.2M symbols fluidly and with no errors and 2M symbols more slowly and with one error at 16 inches (40 cm). When Richard held the card at his preferred viewing distance of 6 inches, he read down to 1M print with one error.

Optical Devices for Reading/Distance

Richard was asked to find words on a map from a school textbook that he will be using during the school year. He located many words on the map, but had more difficulty with lower contrast words. When he was given a 3× pocket magnifier to try out, he located the lower contrast words on the map with no difficulty. He used the pocket magnifier easily with no training and appeared to enjoy it. Richard drew a picture of a flashlight-type stand magnifier that he uses at home. There was no report of this magnifier in his records, and he does not bring this magnifier to school. Richard reported that he regularly uses a monocular telescope to see the time on the clock in his classroom, but he did not have it with him on the day of this initial assessment. This optical device also was not mentioned in his school records.

Summary

Richard has reduced distance visual acuity and needs to be closer to see details at a distance for his school work. He also has difficulty seeing very small symbols (smaller than newsprint) and, in some instances, may require large print or magnifiers or a CCTV for reading assignments, especially for dictionaries, maps, footnotes, and encyclopedias. Richard can detect material of low contrast, although he had difficulty identifying lower contrast writing on a complex map from one of his textbooks. He does not appear to have a problem with his area of vision (peripheral or side vision), but this should be corroborated by his ophthalmologist. Richard indicated that he has less difficulty printing smaller rather than larger letters, and this requires further investigation by school staff to determine the best writing methods for Richard. Richard reported that he regularly uses a stand magnifier at home for near tasks, and he showed no resistance and abundant dexterity in using a trial pocket magnifier presented during the evaluation. If Richard does acquire and use magnification devices (optical or electronic) for some reading tasks at school, this may decrease his need for large print materials. It is likely that Richard will require some adaptations for school reading tasks. The possible use of optical and electronic magnification devices for school tasks will be discussed with Richard's parents, with the suggestion that Richard return to his ophthalmologist for further evaluation in this area.