



VISION&LEARNINGNEWS

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Evergreen Vision and Learning Center

Dan Hock is a primary care optometrist who specializes in developmental optometry. He is a native of Evergreen who feels privileged to practice in the community in which he was raised. Please call 303.674.4143 to schedule an appointment or visit evandlc.com for more information.

For this holiday season, I would like to bring everyone in our community a message of hope. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of helping many children overcome previously hidden barriers to their academic success, and I have received countless letters from parents thanking me for uncover-

“...this has been life changing in the best ways!”

ing the underlying reason for their child's struggles. These letters are so inspirational, and in the spirit of the season, I thought I would share one with you:

“It is with great pleasure that we share our testimony of our 10-year-old daughter. She has struggled with school, specifically reading and writing, since first grade. As her parents and educators ourselves, we felt like we had tried every-

thing. We had her looked at by medical doctors, observed by specialists in the schools, debated holding her back in school and looked for learning disabilities; we found out that she's incredibly smart! Which is what we had thought, but why was she struggling so much? We found nothing, and the frustration continued. We worked on supplementing at home, in both reading and writing; however, she still started off each year below grade level.

Then, last year, we brought her to Dr. Hock to have an official eye exam; she had always just had the ones at her well-child check and had perfect vision! Dr. Hock had us fill out a survey because of her age, and through his thorough examination, he diagnosed her with General Binocular Vision Disorder, Convergence Insufficiency, Accommodation Infacility and Deficiencies in Pursuits and Saccades. In general terms, this means her eyes haven't been working together this whole time. We felt terrible that we had not known this. We were thrilled to finally have an answer, but what we didn't know was that a year later we would be celebrating huge

successes in school for this sweet girl!

Dr. Hock had her immediately start vision therapy through the Evergreen Vision and Learning Center. This was intense; she had to work very hard at her sessions, but also at home each day. Ursula was her therapist and worked her really hard, but in a way that was fun for our daughter as well. She hit huge milestones and her eyes were working together! Ursula and Dr. Hock re-tested her and were extremely excited to see how far she had come, but there was still work to do. They suggested we start tutoring with Donna, in the same learning center, to help with our daughter's fluency now that her eyes were finally doing the work together. Again, she has had to work extremely hard, and Donna pushes her too, but in a way that our daughter is able to see is helping her. Now she plans her visits with Donna and brings in assignments she is struggling with and asks for help. Donna helps her, but works in her own agenda as well to keep this girl on the right track!

Our work isn't done yet. We still meet with Donna, and our daughter still works really hard, but we can tell you that this has been life changing in the best ways! She started 5th grade this year at grade level in every subject and continues to have the best school year academically that she has ever had! We will tell you that academics are not the only thing that has benefited in her life;

Cheers!

her sports have as well! This girl now hits the ball in softball like she never did before! The combination of Dr. Hock, Ursula and Donna have been the miracle we needed for our sweet girl and we will forever be grateful for them finding out what was going on with her, but also for helping her fix the problem and continuing to work with her. It's an investment that will pay back in dividends throughout her life. With Gratitude and Sincerity, Jenny and Ryan Alsup.”

A lot of the children we see have passed vision screenings, and their parents were told their vision was fine. While they could see the board in the classroom without a problem, they continued to struggle with schoolwork because they had vision problems that interfered with their ability to read.

It is important to know that whether your child is a bright underachiever, is behind grade level, struggles with reading, has attention problems or any other behavioral challenges, it is never too late. If an eye coordination or eye movement disorder is interfering with academic performance, we can help! If you have questions, please give us a call.

My staff at Evergreen Vision and Learning Center consists of two certified vision therapists, Ursula Smith and Jenny Bailey, and our reading specialist, Donna Hanisch. Our wish to everyone is a season of hope and joy and for a happy and healthy 2015!