

## Teacher Checklist for Students with Near Normal Vision (6/12 to 6/18 vision)

By Denise Probert & Gayle Skinner Visiting teachers for Vision Impaired, Vic, 2013. Reproduced with permission.

Near normal is defined as vision that does not meet the criteria for vision impairment, (vision of worse than 6/18 or a field of view of 20 degrees). But this vision is out of the normal vision range (visual acuities between 6/12 and 6/18 or field of vision of greater than 20 degrees but not 170 degrees).

A person with 6/18 distance acuity has to be 6 metres from an object that a person with 6/6 (normal vision) can see at a distance of 18 metres.

A person with distance acuity issues may not necessarily have print access issues.

*The observation checklist below is designed for teachers to gather data to use in order to modify the educational environment for the student, or to be aware of potential problems.*

### Questions for the teacher to observe and answer:

1. Is the student more confident in walking in dark corridors or well-lit corridors?
2. Do you notice if the student reads better on sunny days or dull days? Is performance better at different times of the day, or in different seasons?
3. Does the student find it easier to use a desktop computer when the screen and or keyboard are moved closer?
4. What size of font and what typeface is the student choosing when word processing? e.g. A regular sized font with serifs: like "Times New Roman, N12";

versus a font **without serifs**, like "**Comic Sans MS N20**".

5. Does the student show a preference for exploring the world by:-
  - (a) looking, (b) touching, (c) listening, or (d) moving around?
6. Does the student rub eyes, blink a lot more, or otherwise appear visually fatigued in the afternoons or after an intensive period of activity involving watching DVDs, reading, close vision or attention to visual detail?

### Teaching strategies:

*(Please note: the following is a guide only and **not all** of these recommendations will apply to all students.)*

- Try using black felt pens on a clean whiteboard.
- Avoid glare on whiteboards.
- Avoid standing in front of a light source such as a bright window.
- Read out loud as you write on the whiteboard and spell new words as you go - this will assist the student with impaired vision who may not be able to see the board.
- Give students information and worksheets on a flash-drive for use on their computer.
- Reduce visual clutter - leave out unnecessary detail on worksheets and on the whiteboard.
- Consider vision fatigue - signs of vision fatigue include red eyes, rubbing eyes, watering eyes and/or headaches. Allow for rest breaks or alternate visual/non-visual activities e.g. listening to audio materials.
- Each student will have their own distance for reading - don't be concerned if this distance is very short.