

From Reading Struggles to Reading Confidence:

Haddie's Experience with Vision Therapy

When Haddie started fourth grade last year, her mom, Heather, noticed something she hadn't expected. During their nightly reading, Haddie left words out, added words, and frequently lost her place. Heather also felt like Haddie was reading much more slowly than she should be for her grade level.

At first, Heather wondered if the issue was simply that they needed to do more reading at home. Haddie had been wearing glasses for more than a year, so she assumed Haddie was seeing the words in her books just fine and didn't realize there could be a disconnect between what someone's eyes see and how their brain interprets it.

Finding Answers

After talking with a friend who recommended Visions Eye Care + Therapy Center, Heather scheduled an assessment. That's when the family learned Haddie had convergence insufficiency, a condition that affected how her eyes worked together while she read.

"Dr. Gentrup showed us two identical pictures and words on clear sheets stacked together," Heather recalls. "She explained that sometimes Haddie's words in her book would move side to side or up and down while she was reading."

For Haddie, vision therapy became a year-long journey of learning, practicing, and persevering. She worked with Ms. Tricia at Visions each week, someone whom Heather described as compassionate, encouraging, and always boosting Haddie up with positivity. "The activities were fun and helped me learn," Haddie says. "Visions made my reading skills better!"

Reading Improvement

That hard work has made a noticeable difference. Haddie's assessment scores significantly improved, and reading has become something she enjoys rather than something she avoids. Heather says the difference between where Haddie was a year ago and where she is today is "just amazing."

Not only did Haddie's reading improve drastically, but so did her confidence. Through the challenges and hard work of therapy, she learned that she can do hard things.

For families concerned about a child's reading or vision, Heather encourages them to take the first step.

"The assessment is painless. Give your child the chance to struggle less and thrive!"

And Haddie has a message of her own: "I'd tell kids needing vision therapy that they're going to have fun and feel welcomed. It works!"

To learn more, visit us online at **sdvisions.com** or call us at **605.271.7100**