

Children's Vision Massachusetts Story Bank

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A Boston Public School teacher was concerned about her kindergarten student. Emma had been having difficulty in the classroom, including attention issues, bumping into things, and trouble interacting with other students.

The teacher thought perhaps there was a problem with her vision and recommended that she have a comprehensive eye exam. Dr. Johnson provided the exam and determined that Emma was exceedingly nearsighted.

As soon Dr. Johnson fit her with new prescription glasses, Emma looked up and exclaimed, "Hi, Dr. Johnson!" She then returned to her classroom and proceeded to say hello to each of her classmates; children she was able to see clearly for the first time.

For young children, having good or corrected vision allows for proper development of motor, speech, cognitive, and social skills. Thanks to her teacher's insight and action, Emma is now able to interact fully with her peers and enjoy classroom activities.

"To have everyone working together to assure that all children who need vision care have access to that care is very important," says Dr. Johnson. "To some degree, education and awareness about vision starts within the family, but others must contribute as well. Each person, be they parent, teacher, school nurse, pediatrician, or eye doctor, provide important steps in this process. If there is failure at even one step, the system breaks down."

Emma loves the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and wants to become a policewoman when she grows up. Receiving glasses and being able to see properly literally opened up Emma's world.

Catherine Johnson, O.D., F.A.A.O., Associate Professor, New England College of Optometry, was the founding Director of the New England Eye/Renaissance School Vision Center. Her clinical expertise is in pediatrics, with a focus on children with special needs.



Children's Vision
Massachusetts

Open Eyes. Open Doors.