WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic team, I would like to welcome you and your child. We have been providing this clinic throughout Colorado for the past fourteen years and we hope you will find it worthwhile.

When you enter the clinic, you will be introduced to the "clinic team" (Debbie Haberkorn, our clinic administrator, Jim Olson or Wendy Stoltman, Certified Low Vision Therapists and me, Dr. Tom Theune, an optometrist). We will begin by asking a few questions and measuring your child's vision. Based on his or her grade level, hobbies, interests and your specific requests, we will begin the process of selecting and learning how to use different types of magnification "tools." These "tools" will help your child access and enjoy all types of printed material. Like a carpenter needs many tools to do their work properly, a person with a visual impairment needs different devices to perform their jobs properly.

After selecting the proper tools, we will work with your child using the devices in a variety of settings that simulate the school and home environment. If appropriate, electronic magnification and computer technology will be evaluated. The evaluation will last about 90 minutes.

For the past twenty years I have been dealing with an eye disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa or RP. My vision loss developed in my adult years but it has allowed me to better understand the importance of using a variety of "tools". Without these "tools" I would be very dependent on the people around me instead of being as independent as possible. These low vision devices allow me to control my environment (print size, lighting, glare, etc.) instead of the environment controlling me.

We hope this low vision clinic provides you and your child with the information needed to begin the process of making him/her as independent as possible now, throughout their school years, and into their adult life. If you have any questions, please talk to your child's teacher certified in the area of visual impairment or contact any member of the clinic team. Thank you again for being a part of Colorado's Low Vision Evaluation Clinic.

Sincerely,

Tom Theune, OD

Thomas W. Theune, OD, FAAO - Low Vision Specialist
(719) 471-3200

What to Bring:

* Any printed material your child wants to see more comfortably (i.e. textbook, pleasure book, magazine, worksheets, etc.)
* Any portable devices your child may be using (distance and/or reading glasses, magnifiers, monoculars, sunglasses, hat, etc.)
* Any eyeglasses or devices your child has, even if they do not currently use them.