



enabling every  
child to learn



► OUR VISION IS TO ENABLE  
EVERY CHILD TO LEARN TO  
HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL

○ April

○ Missile

○ 2011



► OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE  
THE *MOVE TO LEARN*  
MOVEMENT SEQUENCES  
AVAILABLE TO EVERY CHILD  
IN EVERY CLASSROOM

# Missile *e-mail*

**SUE LARTER** BOptom, MSc, FACBO, FCOVD,  
Specialist Behavioural Optometrist ,1952-2011



It was with deep sadness that we learned of the death of one of our closest associates and friends, Sue Larter, this past week. Tragically, Sue drowned while she was holidaying with her husband in the Kermadec Islands, 1,000km NE of New Zealand.

As many of you are aware, Sue was a leading figure in behavioural optometry both in Australia and internationally. She served on the board of the Australasian College of Behavioural Optometrists, as Secretary and also Interim President, and was unendingly generous with her time in sharing her insights, experience and expertise.

A font of knowledge and a wonderful support to Barbara, as well as a personal friend of many of us in the Move to Learn Community, Sue will be deeply, deeply missed.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, April 28, 10.30am at Leighton Hall, Scientia Building, University of NSW, Sydney.

If you are wanting to attend, please call the Optometric office, (02) 9712 2199 so that numbers can be catered for.

A few pearls of wisdom that Sue graciously shared with us:

## QUICK FUNCTIONAL VISION SCREENING FOR TEACHERS

By Sue Larter,

**Observation** is one of the best clues to potential vision problems: if you notice a child blinking excessively, squinting, rubbing their eyes, tilting their head; or if they complain of headaches, blurred vision, sore eyes; or if they lose their place when reading, copy inaccurately, have poor comprehension or poorly spaced handwriting and are still reversing letters or numerals after age 8, these clues all suggest that a thorough visual assessment is indicated.

If you suspect a vision problem the following two tests may help you decide:

### **Convergence test**

*Relevant for all school-aged children*

To be alerted as to whether a student's eyes work well together, hold a small, detailed object (eg pen tip held vertically) about 30cm in front of child's nose. Instruct the child to carefully watch the point of the pen. Slowly advance the pen directly towards the child's nose, asking the child to try to keep the pen looking like one, but to let you know if they see two. Observe the child's eyes. Both eyes should move in towards the nose equally and smoothly. Repeat your observation at least three times to ensure that there is no break-down in function over time.

If the child cannot converge to 6cm from their nose, or if you notice one or other eye swing out as the pen comes closer, referral is indicated for a thorough eye examination.

### **Eye movements (Tracking)**

*Relevant for all children 6 years+*

Again hold a small detailed object about 30cm in front of child's nose. Instruct the child to 'carefully watch the point of the pen and follow it just with your eyes'. Slowly move the pen tip in a circular motion, no wider than shoulder width and no higher than the forehead. Observe the child's eye movements as the pen makes 2 full circles clockwise and two anti-clockwise.

If the child cannot follow the target smoothly with both eyes, or is distracted by other visual stimuli in the background, or uses head movements instead of eye movements, referral is indicated for a thorough eye examination.

For further information about Vision and Learning, see [www.acbo.org.au](http://www.acbo.org.au)



Move to Learn Seminar, Manly, 2005

