Atticus’ Struggle

Atticus struggled from K to 6th grade: vomiting, reading/writing dyslexia, concentration. Diagnosed with ADHD and prescribed meds, his symptoms worsen. In 5th grade he begged for glasses (he has 20/20 sight), complaining of blurry vision, dizziness, vertigo, and hours of blindness. Medical tests came back negative. A behavioral vision examination showed Atticus suffered from double vision (he thought it was normal). He began vision therapy and is having amazing results in his behavior, school, symptoms, and off all medication.

As BVD patient for a debilitating concussion, English teacher, and mother of four children who struggle with BVD, I have experienced the struggles of BVD and the amazing results when BVD is properly diagnosed and treated.

$10-40 Billion saved per year

In 2007, 5.9 million students received special education at a cost of $17,000 per student equaling $101 billion dollars. Numerous studies show that 13-50% have undiagnosed BVD curable at 75%. Other forms of vision treatment are only 33% effective. 777,150 to 1.1 million students could be cured of BVD, no longer need services.

We spend $34 to $54 billion per year on ADHD. Studies show 20 -25% are misdiagnosed and actually have BVD. Proper diagnosis and treatment can save $4.75 to $13.5 billion.

LTSC Goals for BVD

- Issuance of a guidance/technical assistance document by state/federal DOE regarding BVD and federal/state definitions of visual impairment
- All educators, OTs, & Special Ed teachers take Visual Processing Courses (http://sensoryprocessingcourses.com/)
- Educational campaign about BVD
- Behavioral vision examination for every incoming kindergartener and 3rd, 6th, & 9th grade
- Yearly quality of life screening survey by parent & teacher (inputted into a state and federal database to ensure tracking and compliance)
- Students with external or internal brain trauma fill out a screening form
- Audio & comprehensive behavioral vision examinations part of the 504 and IEP process to ensure proper diagnosis, accommodations, and treatment
- Improve access to vision therapy (which is 75% effective in curing BVD)
- Therapy code should be time-based and include visualon verbiage
- All insurance companies cover vision therapy

BVD’s Impact

- 1/5 children struggle with BVD
- 12% of the population
- Up to 50% of special ed students
- 20-25% of ADHD are misdiagnosed and have BVD
- 21-50% of autistic
- 7/10 juvenile delinquents
- 75% of reading dyslexia actually BVD