

October 31, 2016

I've been working with the Heiken Children's Vision Program for more than ten years and I can tell you it is phenomenal. Even after that long, I get emotional when the doctor arrives with the eyeglasses. The look on the kids' faces when they put on their glasses for the first time just brings tears to my eyes.

Most of these children come from single parent families and can't afford good eye care. I'm not sure the parents even know there is a problem. In most cases it's the teacher who recognizes that the child is not seeing well and comes to me to try to help. This year the Heiken Program has examined every child in our school and prescribed eyeglasses for over 100.

Today, an eight-year-old third grader received his first eyeglasses. He had the opportunity to pick out the style frame he wanted when he was originally examined. This morning, when he put them on, his whole face lit up and he said "*Oh, I can see now!*" Everyone in the room got misty eyed including me. That definitely made my day. Thanks, Heiken Program. You are truly phenomenal.

Sincerely,

Angela Mitchell
School Counselor
Norwood Elementary

November 1, 2016

I have so many good things to say about the Heiken Children's Vision Program, I've been involved with the program for the past eleven years and the doctors are all absolutely wonderful.

Typically, the children that benefit from the program are financially unable to access good eye care. Most of them don't even know they have a vision problem. They think this is what the world is supposed to look like. Once the examination is done and it is determined that the youngster needs glasses, he or she gets to pick from as many as 15 different styles and colors. The most popular ones these days are the ones with thick dark rims!

The real excitement comes a few weeks later when the glasses arrive. It is so rewarding to see their faces light up with wonderment when they experience clear vision for the very first time. The glasses not only improve the youngsters' vision, it really changes their lives. Most of them improve dramatically in school as well.

Sincerely,

Jesse Maguire-Steбенне
School Counselor
Fienberg/Fisher K-8 Center Counselor