

When someone is screened for Scotopic Sensitivity Irlen Syndrome, screening may show that he/she suffers from a visual perceptual problem effecting reading and writing. This can reduce the readability of letters or numbers due to print distortions and background interference when reading or writing either words, numerals or musical notes.

Indications of this may be:

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a desire to read in dim light | skips lines or words            |
| rereads lines                 | reads slowly and hesitantly     |
| reads with increasing errors  | reads with poor comprehension   |
| reads at a slow rate          | unable to read continuously     |
| misreads words                | tracks poorly                   |
| avoids reading                | makes sloppy or careless errors |
| misaligns numbers             | writes uphill or downhill       |
| writes with uneven spacing    | spells inconsistently           |

Six groups of symptoms can be experienced singly or in combination by many with a reading difficulty:

- 1. Light Sensitivity**- Bothered by glare, fluorescent lights, sunlight or car headlights. Discomfort in working in brightly lit rooms.
- 2. Contrast**- Difficulty reading black print on white paper. The white may be bright, glaring, uncomfortable to look at and may compete with the words.
- 3. Print**- Difficulty reading print, numbers, or music. Words can blur, merge together, wobble, move double or even disappear.
- 4. Span**- Unable to see groups of letters or words clearly at the same time. Only one word or part of a word is clear while the rest is faint or blurry.
- 5. Concentration**- Problems concentrating on reading or writing. Becomes restless, tired. takes frequent breaks, sometimes by simply looking up from the page.
- 6. Depth**- Inability to judge distance and spatial relationships accurately. May bump into things, have difficulty with ball games, stairs.

Distortions that may occur while reading are seen in the following samples but are not limited to these:

	<b>← Washout</b>		<b>Shaky →</b>	
Halo	Rivers	Swirl	Seesaw	Blurry

Clients can have these problems related to Irlen Syndrome when doing any visual task, especially those involving black print on white background:

\_\_distractible \_\_misreads words \_\_fidgety \_\_eye discomfort \_\_headaches \_\_avoidance