

## One Million Magic Moments Stories



### Victoria

Victoria is an example of how vision impacts every aspect of a child's life from learning, confidence and social interactions to participating in activities such as sports, art or music. The good news is that 80 percent<sup>1</sup> of all vision impairment can be prevented or cured, often with a pair of glasses.

Before Victoria got glasses, she was having trouble in school. "It was really hard to see the board. Everything was blurry and sometimes I saw two of one thing. I was distracted when I had to learn," she says.

"Victoria is one of my special students. Her personality just explodes when she's in the classroom," her teacher shares. That is why she became concerned when she saw a change in Victoria's behavior. "I noticed she was squinting and that she was very quiet, and that is not her personality at all." When Victoria could not pass the school vision screening, her school nurse determined it was time for new glasses.

Victoria's life changed immediately when she got her glasses. "Once I put my glasses on it was amazing because everything was so clear. I could see far away and I could see the colors – it was fun! I play softball and now I'll be able to see the ball to throw and hit." Her father also noticed the change in his daughter. "She is very happy with her glasses. For us, it is very gratifying, and we are grateful to have this opportunity to help her learn in school."



### Eddie

Many parents are unaware of the signs and symptoms<sup>2</sup> of vision impairments. This was the true for Eddie. In fact, 44% of parents<sup>3</sup> are not aware that behavioral problems can be an indication that a child's vision is impaired.

"It was a total surprise to me when I was told that he needed glasses. No one in my family uses glasses and I thought he was too young," Eddie's mother explains. "Now that he has received his glasses, I've noticed he doesn't have to hold his books so close. I just thought the reason was because he was learning to read but that was not the case. His glasses have helped him in every single way."

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs282/en/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.allaboutvision.com/en-in/parents/schoolage/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.beareye.com/news/Eye-Q-Report-card.pdf>

Even before he got his glasses, Eddie was a big help in the classroom. “Eddie is quite a charmer and one thing I admire about him is that he is always willing to help out his peers. If I can’t get to a student, I can always rely on him to help. He’s very patient and always talks to the students step by step,” his teacher says. She did suspect, though, that he needed glasses. “I had an idea that Eddie needed to get his eyes checked because I noticed he was squinting a lot towards the board. Now he is more engaged in the lessons and he will immediately respond and participate. He is also more confident.”

Eddie is delighted with his glasses. “Before I got my glasses it was hard to see books and letters, but now I can see books, letters, animals, my teacher and the ball. And I can play hide and seek with my friends.”



### **Rebecca**

Clear vision is especially crucial for children, as up to 80 percent<sup>4</sup> of what they learn through age 12 is through their eyes. Yet vision is an invisible problem. Unlike hunger or tooth decay, children are often unable to self-identify that their vision is impaired. To them, blurred vision is normal. That was the case for Rebecca.

“Before I got my glasses, I thought it was normal to see blurry. It was hard to see anything far away, like the board if I was in the back of the classroom. Now that I have glasses, I realize my vision before was horrible,” Rebecca shares.

Because many children like Rebecca do not know they have a vision issue, their parents are also often unaware. “We did not know she was having issues and it was a surprise. The nurse actually called me to let me know,” her mother says.

Rebecca’s reading teacher became concerned when she noticed Rebecca squinting in class. “When I first met Rebecca, I knew that she was going to be one of my leaders in my classroom. But she was struggling in class and I had to move her to the front to see if that was helping her with her vision. Even with her sitting in the front, she was still squinting and was starting to have headaches.” Glasses are helping Rebecca realize her potential. “She is very happy all the time, she is eager to answer questions, she is eager to read, and her grades have improved tremendously,” her teacher adds.

Rebecca loves her glasses. “They’re cute and comfortable, and it feels like they were meant to be there.”

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.aoa.org/patients-and-public/good-vision-throughout-life/childrens-vision/school-aged-vision-6-to-18-years-of-age?sso=y>