

Eight-year-old Mabel gets glasses to combat dyslexia

Mabel Wolfe, 8, from Stanley, who wears pink glasses to help with her dyslexia



A YOUNGSTER hopes to look at the world through rose-tinted glasses – in a bid to tackle her dyslexia.

Mabel Wolfe, from Stanley, County Durham, had always struggled to read music or a book.

But now, thanks to a pair of unique tinted glasses, the eight-year-old can see more clearly and her life has been transformed for the better. The spectacles have been tailor-made by Andrew Keyes, in Gosforth, one of only a handful of optometrists in the region to offer this service.

Each lens is rose-coloured and it helps the Ouston Junior School pupil overcome reading difficulties by blocking out distortions and making images clearer and sharper.

Mabel's mum, Laura, 41, a school business manager, said: "When she was reading she told us all the words were moving fast off the page and it was hard to keep up. She also plays the trumpet and said she had difficulty in seeing the notes.

"There was a total lack of understanding about her problems and we were reaching the end of our tether and really didn't know what to do. It was then I got on the computer and did some research.

"Andrew gave Mabel a thorough examination and explained everything. It was really fascinating. He was in no doubt that my daughter had visual stress and we looked at the colours that could help sort out the problem.

"She is now the proud owner of High School Musical-style rose-tinted spectacles and the change has been fantastic.

"To see the way the simple use of coloured glasses has transformed her life brings tears to my eyes. You have to see it to believe it. The change has been dramatic and everything is now so much clearer for her."

Dyslexia affects around 10% of the population and four times as many boys as girls. Effects include losing your place or skipping words or lines, poor concentration, difficulties learning to read or write, print blurring and tiredness when reading.

Studies have shown that coloured filters or tinted glasses can significantly reduce visual stress and improve reading and concentration.

Andrew, who has a practice in Ashburton Road, Gosforth, said: "Visual stress is a visual perception problem which makes it difficult to see clearly.

"The contrast between printed words on a white surface can make letters appear jumbled or blurred."