



# Occupational Therapy Connection

## Monthly Newsletter

### Visual Perceptual Skills

Visual perception is different from visual acuity. Visual acuity is the ability to see clearly. Visual perception is the process of the brain understanding, interpreting, and using what we see. A student who has good visual acuity skills does not always have good visual perceptual skills. Visual perception is an important skill for children to develop as it plays an important role in learning and in life skills.

There are many types of visual perceptual skills. These skills play an important part in a student's ability to learn, read, and write.

- Form constancy - the ability to recognize an object, even if the size, shape, or color is different.
- Visual closure - the ability to “fill in” a picture, letter, or word when only part of it is seen.
- Visual discrimination - the ability to recognize particular features of a letter, picture, number, or symbol.
- Visual memory - the ability to recall details of a picture, letter, or symbol.
- Visual attention - the ability to attend to visual stimuli.
- Visual-spatial relations - the ability to understand the position of objects or letters in relation to yourself or other figures.
- Topographical orientation - the ability to determine where different locations are and how to get there.

What might you see if your student has difficulty with visual perception?

Here is a list of signs to look for -

Difficulties with:

- Attending or focusing on a task
- Finding things in their locker, desk, backpack
- Copying from the board
- Spelling or phonics
- Matching and sorting
- Signs in math problems
- Differentiating fonts in textbooks
- Working on a busy worksheet
- Reading other's handwriting
- Reading smoothly without losing their place
- Decoding unfamiliar words
- Understanding fractions
- Recognizing partially hidden objects
- Following spatial directions
- Order of letters or numbers
- Understanding 3-D shapes
- Reversals or confusing letters/numbers
- Following directions
- Finding their way in a new place
- Organization of materials
- Use of margins and lines
- Measuring tools
- Assembling puzzles
- Sequencing of words
- Solving multiple step problems
- Word puzzles

## Best Toys for Visual Perceptual Skills

Here are some suggestions of toys and games that help foster and promote visual perceptual skills.

- I-Spy Books and Games
- Interlocking Puzzles
- Memory match games
- Play Pattern Puzzles
- Pixio Design Series
- Highlights Hidden Pictures
- Rush Hour
- Mental Blox
- Hidden Picture Worksheets (highlights)
- Match the letter/number activities
- Pixy Cubes
- Spot It
- Tangrams
- Paint/ Color by Number
- Copying block/Lego designs
- Word search Books
- BINGO
- Legos
- Pancake Pile Up
- Game AnimaLogic
- Pencil Nose Game
- Yeti or Not Game
- Splitting Image Perfection
- Bugzzle
- Crankity
- Acuity
- Connect Four
- UNO and UNO Games
- SmartGames IQ Puzzler Pro
- Battleship
- How to Draw Books
- Aquadoodle/Magnadoodle
- SET - Visual Perceptual Game
- Pattern Play Mosaic Pictures
- Q-Bits Jr.
- Dr. Microbe Science Game
- Zingo
- Swish
- Tetris
- Tangrams
- Shape by Shape
- GeoMagic Mosaics
- Magnetic Creation Station
- Perfection
- Pictionary
- Sudoku
- Crossword puzzles

