

Visual Perceptual Skills

WHAT ARE VISUAL PERCEPTUAL SKILLS?

- The ability to process and interpret what is seen
- Involves: identifying, discriminating, orienting and recalling visual information
 - Visual Discrimination – similarities/differences
 - Figure-Ground Discrimination – focus on target amongst busy background
 - Visual Spatial Relations – orientation of one object in relation to another
 - Visual Memory – recalling visual details from memory
- **Visual Motor Integration** involves interpreting visual information and coordinating it with motor output to replicate what is seen. Coordination between perceptual skills and motor skills is required for successful visual motor integration.

WHY ARE VISUAL PERCEPTUAL SKILLS IMPORTANT?

- Supports success in the following areas:
 - Organizational skills
 - Reading and writing
 - Structuring and organizing written work
 - Copying from the board
 - Comparative language (taller than, more than, shorter than etc.)
 - Judging speed and distance
 - Jigsaw Puzzles

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD'S VISUAL PERCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT?

- Matching games and Jigsaw Puzzles (start with fewer pieces on table at once)
- Feely bag (describe an object without looking at it, just by feeling it and then again while looking at it)
- Tracing shapes
- I-Spy and Simon Says (provide visual cues for actions)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visual Perceptual Skill Building, Books 1 & 2 Raya Burstein (1998) (2000)

http://edhelper.com/visual_skills.htm