

Visual Form Constancy

Visual Form Constancy is the ability to recognize that a shape remains the same despite changes in size, direction, orientation, and distance.

Children with visual form constancy problems may have difficulty with the following:

- Building Lego/ K'nex from the instructions
- Recognizing that a picture is the same as a real object
- Judging size, height, width, distance
- Recognizing everyday objects when they are put in unusual positions or are a different size
- Recognizing the same word in different fonts.
- Difficulty distinguishing between similar forms e.g. circle/oval; square/rectangle.
- Difficulty recognizing that a shape in a 3D form e.g. block on a table is still the same shape in a 2D form e.g. square drawn on the board.
- Difficulty projecting the idea of a shape onto something familiar to him/her e.g. a door is rectangular.
- Difficulty recognizing a word if presented in upper case rather than lower case.
- Confused with similar looking words e.g. clock, clear, click, cling, clown.
- Distinguishing between similar letters e.g. o/a; n/m; v/w; r/n.

Activities to help:

- Play I Spy with your child using the shapes of objects. For example, I spy something shaped like a circle, triangle, square, etc.
- Make collages using paper of different colors cut into the same shape of various sizes, various pictures of objects of a particular shape could also be used for a collage.
- Show your child pictures of the same person or object taken from different angles, and ask your child if he or she recognizes the person or object in the picture.
- Draw outlines of shapes on a piece of paper. Provide your child with shapes you have cut out of various sizes and colors. Ask your child to match the cut-out shapes to the correct shape outline. (This activity also requires visual closure skills).
- Write or type the same word in many styles or fonts, colors, and sizes together with other words. Ask your child to underline the same word in its different forms.
- Copy 3D patterns and shapes (i.e. block designs)
- Compare and contrast the size and shape of objects
- Color in 3D drawings
- Build 3D geometric shapes
- Make 3D models from 2D diagrams (i.e. Legos, K'nex)

- Work with solid objects to identify their characteristics and compare them to pictures of the object
- Sorting box
 - Place items of various shapes and sizes in a box. Make sure that there are at least two items of each shape AND size. (i.e. two small circular items, two large circular items, two small triangular items, etc.)
 - Select an item from the box and place it at a distance in the room. Ask the child to look at the item and find an item of the same shape in the box, or the same shape and size.
- Letter search- Give your child some old magazines, and designate a certain letter for him or her to find in the magazines. The goal is to find the letter in as many different sizes, colors, or styles as possible. Either have the child circle the letter or ask them to cut out the letter and glue it to another piece of paper. (This can also be done by searching for a certain number, rather than a letter.)
- On-line Activities
 - Numbers
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills301.htm
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills303.htm
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills305.htm
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills302.htm
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills304.htm
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills306.htm
 - Words
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills307.htm
 - Shapes
 - <http://www.eyecanlearn.com/form%20constancy.htm>
 - <http://www.eyecanlearn.com/rotations.htm>
 - Odd One Out
 - Find the letter, number, or symbol that is turned around or upside down.
 - <http://www.pitara.com/games/odd/>