

Visual Discrimination

Visual Discrimination is the ability to identify when shapes, symbols, objects, and patterns are the same. This skill allows children to recognize similarities between objects, in order to match and sort them by categories.

Children with visual discrimination problems may have difficulty with the following:

- Recognizing sameness (shapes, size, color, letters, words, and objects).
- Matching tasks (i.e. numbers, letters, shapes, symbols, words)
- Writing
 - Reversals when writing numbers and letters
 - Inappropriate use of capital letters

Activities to help:

- Prepare a paper consisting of sets of words. One word in each group should be different. Ask your child to circle the words that are the same.
 - i.e. can can can con can
 big big pig big big
 was was was was saw
 tent tent sent tent tent
- Newspaper search
 - Give your child a page of the newspaper. Ask him or her to circle certain things that are the same such as:
 - All the “e’s” (pick any letter)
 - A particular word (i.e. the)
- Matching games
 - Dominoes
 - Old Maid
 - Go Fish
 - Match the pairs from a Memory game
 - Matching letters, numbers, shapes, sequences.
 - Bead pattern matching
 - Have a variety of bead patterns made, and ask your child to copy the patterns.

- Sorting
 - Egg Carton Sort
 - Give your child an assortment of objects. (i.e. Buttons, paperclips, beads, screws, etc.) Ask the child to sort the objects that are the same (size, color, shape, or object) into sections of the egg carton.
 - Colored Shapes
 - Cut paper of different colors into various shapes and sizes. Ask your child to sort them according to shapes, size, and/or color.
- Ask your child to search for similarities between two pictures
- Match the detail
 - Match a picture of a detail (such as a window) to the picture from which the detail came (such as the house that has that window).
- On-line Activities
 - Which picture is the same?
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills201.htm (easy)
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills203.htm (more difficult)
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills205.htm (easy and difficult mix)
 - Matching Letters
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills1.htm
 - Matching Shapes
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills2.htm
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills3.htm
 - <http://www.eyecanlearn.com/match.htm>
 - Matching Games
 - My Little Pony
 - Tonka Trucks
 - Toy Story
 - Littlest Pet Shop
 - Candy Land
 - <http://www.hasbro.com/monkeybartvjr/default.cfm?page=activity&activity=38>