

Visual Figure-Ground

Visual Figure-Ground is the ability to identify relevant visual information from a background that contains irrelevant or distracting objects and images.

Children with visual figure-ground problems may have difficulty with the following:

- Concentrating on relevant visual information
- Ignoring what is irrelevant
- Shifting attention appropriately
- Finding specific places in text, books, and maps.
- Noticing all the relevant words in a question, identifying key words.
- Keeping place when reading, completing a worksheet, or copying from the board.
- May miss sections of written assignments.
- Difficulty picking out specific things in a complex picture.

Activities to help:

- Setting the table- Ask your child to help set the table. They will then have to find the right items in the drawer or cupboard.
- Coloring- Selecting specific crayons or markers from a box.
- Dress up- If you mix the clothes in a box, ask your child to find a specific item among the other clothing.
- Overlapping Objects- make a worksheet containing overlapping objects. Ask your child to outline or color specific objects (i.e. color the triangles red, trace each boat with a different color).
- Sorting Activities
 - Mix 2-3 types of items and ask your child to sort them (i.e. pasta, buttons)
 - Ask your child to pick out one type of object from a box containing a mixture of items. At first the objects should differ greatly and progress to differing less. (i.e. sort beads, blocks, textures, find a square button in a box of round ones or a blue marble in a container of green marbles)
- Activity Books and Games
 - Word searches
 - Finding hidden objects (i.e. Where's Waldo, Highlights Magazine hidden pictures)
 - Circling the same word in text
 - Find words beginning or ending with a certain letter
 - Pick up sticks
 - Board games (i.e. Shoots and Ladders, Monopoly, Candy Land)
- On-line Activities
 - Highlights Hidden Pictures (printable)

- <http://www.highlightskids.com/GamesandGiggles/HiddenPics/HiddenPicsPrintable/h8hiddenArchive.asp>
- Click and Play Hidden Pictures
 - http://www.highlightskids.com/GamesandGiggles/HiddenPics/HiddenPixFlashObjects/V2_f5/h8HPI_V2_f5.asp?hpMode=1&nextCount=1&n3=V2HPI_easterEgg_f5.swf&varsIn=1
- Color Shapes
 - http://www.edhelper.com/visual_skills401.htm
- I Spy
 - <http://www.scholastic.com/ispy/play/healthyfun/index.asp>
- Hidden Pictures
 - <http://www.eyecanlearn.com/hidden%20pictures.htm>
- Word searches
 - <http://www.free-coloring-pages.com/game/word-search/word.html>
 - <http://www.free-coloring-pages.com/game/word-search/index.html>