

TOPIC: VISUAL PERCEPTION & VISUAL MOTOR INTEGRATION

DEFINITION: Visual perception is a process that involves receiving and interpreting visual information. It allows a person to recognize, recall, discriminate and make meaning of what they see. Visual motor integration is the ability of the eyes and hands to work together to produce precise movements. This ability is significantly important for pre-writing and writing abilities.

CHARACTERISTICS of DECREASED VISUAL PERCEPTION AND VISUAL MOTOR INTEGRATION:

- Poor depth perception
- Poor awareness of space in relation to things around self
- Skips words/lines or loses place when reading or copying from board
- Difficulty tracking a moving target
- Eyes watering, rubbing, squinting
- Poor alignment of numbers in math
- Poorly organized written work
- Confuses right and left past age 6-8
- Produces reversals in their written work after age 8

RECOMMENDATION FOR SERVICES:

- Seek a consult or evaluation with a therapist who is experienced in visual perception and visual motor integration if you feel your child is experiencing any of the characteristics noted above.
- Early detection and intervention is the best prevention for your child's visual skills to NOT negatively impact their academics.

WHAT TO DO AT HOME:

- Encourage your child to complete color and cut
- Encourage your child to complete puzzles
- Make letters with a variety of objects (pipe cleaners, playdough, Wikki Sticks, drawing in salt/sand)
- Complete mazes and connect-the-dot tasks with your child
- Lacing activities
- Practice imitating block designs
- Complete color, shape, size sorting activities
- Complete tracing activities
- Throwing activities with a target