

Visual Motor Activities Recommendations

Behaviors seen with selected perceptual deficits (Dodds et al., 1993; Schneck, 1996; Schneck & Lemer, 1993; Seiderman, 1984; Crealock & Kronick, 1993; Todd, 1993)

Visual Sequential Memory

- Assignments are forgotten
- Forgets steps that are shown in an activity
- Cannot remember the alphabet in correct order
- Difficulty in spelling words
- Writes a word in the wrong order even if verbal spelling is correct
- Retrieval of words with reversals or out of order
- Difficulty with Math problems
- Difficulty remembering order of events after reading
- Writes letters incorrectly
- Difficulty with dot-to-dot activities
- Difficulty with pattern completion

Activities for Remediation

Work on bead and block patterns
Assist in completion of a recipe or block building
Cut up newspaper comics and place in order
Use magnetic or other type of letters to spell or put in alphabetical order beginning with the left side
Simple Origami
Construct simple paper projects like football or airplanes
Dot-to-dot
Weaving and braiding activities

Position in Space

- Inconsistent symbol reversal
- Transposes number or letters
- Difficulty differentiating between b,d,p,q
- Loses place on page
- Difficulty finding what is being looked for
- Difficulty putting age-appropriate puzzles together
- Difficulty attending to task
- Cannot remember left from right
- Forgets where to start reading
- Difficulty with math computation if more than one digit
- May get lost if enters from a different direction
- Distribution of work on the page may be inappropriate

Remediation

Bead patterns
Practice left-right on individual, then other people, then objects
Simon Says using positional words such as "Put your hand under your chin"
Ball activities rolling, throwing, kicking, catching
Obstacle course
Many puzzle books have activities for identifying differences and similarities
Reconstructing a three dimensional block design

Spatial Relations

- Trouble with right/left
- Design copying difficulty
- Difficulty with spacing within and between words.
- Difficulty writing in a given space such as application lines
- Miscalls words when reading
- Difficulty with reproducing block designs and pegboard designs
- Difficulty reproducing shapes in relation to one another
- May knock over items

Remediation

Discuss picture object relations such as the car is in front of the garage.
Age appropriate puzzles
Simple peg designs/grid designs
Dot-to-dot
Practice throwing to different distance targets

Visual Discrimination

- Matching and sorting difficulties
- Size discrimination may be impaired
- Fails to recognize similarities/ differences in objects
- Difficulty matching two dimension to three dimensional such as alphabet letters

Remediation

Sorting tasks initially with color, size, then discrete differences

Visual Tracking or Ocularmotor Control

- Loses place in reading
- Trouble catching balls
- Depth perception difficulties
- Scanning difficulties
- Loses moving objects
- Does not always start at top or the left
- Energy is expended on tracking and detracts from comprehension, assimilation
- Fatigue
- Difficulty transitioning from near point to far point

Remediation

Mazes or pathways

Large print scanning tasks

Playing catch with a suspended or rolling ball

Some computer games promote tracking

Scan for hidden pictures systematically-top to bottom, left to right

Visual Motor Coordination

- Difficulty drawing geometric symbols
- Difficulty in copying and/or tracing
- Decreased legibility in handwriting
- Difficulty with simple connecting of pictures or dot-to-dot
- Trouble lacing or stringing beads
- Difficulty remaining within boundaries
- Needle threading difficulties, will usually bring needle to thread
- Difficulty with mazes and dot-to-dot
- Difficulty in construction tasks
- Trouble catching or hitting a ball

Remediation

Lacing activities

Cutting out straight line figures, gentle angles, tight angles, curves, and then combinations

Block building tasks

Practice fastenings on toys then on self

Tracing activities (multiple colored lead pencils, and "Changeable Colors/Markers" can be very motivating

Simple mazes then progress to more difficult ones

Outline small spaces before coloring

Dot-to-dot

Simple crossword puzzles that are age appropriate

Play tic-tac-toe remaining in the edges

Play ball games beginning with bouncing directly to, progress to thrown directly to, and progress to throwing to either side

Figure-Ground

- Difficulty with hidden pictures
- Difficulty finding or tracing shapes in a picture
- Difficulty sorting objects into categories
- Cannot focus on one word on a page
- Difficulty copying from a board
- May appear disorganized or careless in work
- Difficulty with word recognition
- Difficulty with locating one object within a group
- Trouble finding place on the page
- Does not notice punctuation
- Skips pages and sections
- Misses important details
- Trouble finding arm holes in dark shirts
- Trouble finding objects in cluttered closets, drawers, toy boxes

Remediation

Workbooks from discount stores often have hidden picture activities

In coloring books, trace all squares in the picture before coloring

In the newspaper, the section of "What is wrong with this picture"

Sorting tasks

Find certain shapes in drawings such as the squares in the foundation and windows

Find certain color clothes in the closet, solids versus prints

Visual Closure

- Cannot complete partially drawn pictures or stencils
- Trouble completing age appropriate puzzles
- Difficulty in spelling
- Leaves out parts of word or entire words
- Leaves out parts of worksheets
- Trouble completing assignments
- Trouble figuring out poorly reproduced pages

Remediation

Have child complete pictures

Work on sequencing of pictures

Puzzles

Dot-to-dot

Hidden pictures

Cut a symmetrical picture in half, glue it on a piece of paper and complete the other side

Color by number

Directionality

- Difficulty understanding right/left concepts
- Reverses letters without seeing them as being incorrect
- Draws circles clockwise
- Trouble beginning on left or the top
- Reads words backwards
- Trouble with up, down, left, right, in, out, and other positions
- Gets lost with directions

Remediation

Practice left/right on self, then others, then objects

May need visual cues for left side for reading and writing

Practice drawing left to right, top to bottom

Stickers to show where to begin

Happy faces to show where to begin

Establishment of handedness helps

Play Simon Says or Hokey Pokey with right- left instructions