



Therakids

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EDUCATORS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS OF CLASSROOM WELLNESS.

VISUAL PERCEPTION AND INTEGRATION

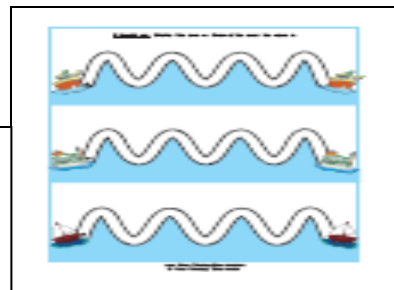
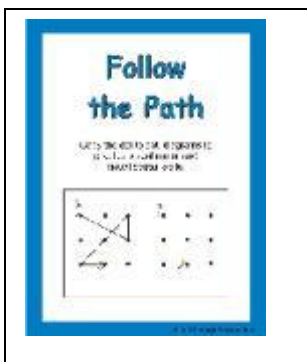
Visual Perception is the brain's ability to make sense of visual information. It can be separated into different skill areas. **Discrimination** is the ability to match identical shapes –important for copying and matching skills. **Memory** is the ability to remember visual information. **Form Constancy** is the ability to identify that two objects are the same regardless of size and placement. **Figure Ground** is the ability to find hidden objects like in “Where’s Waldo”, which can lead to misunderstanding the difference between like words (i.e. want and went). **Visual Closure** is the ability to match forms even if one form is not complete. A child who struggles with any of these skill areas may have difficulty identifying shapes, copying from a board, reading, matching, or shape and letter formation.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Find similarities and differences between two like pictures.
- Make a feely bag for the classroom, putting common items in a bag, asking the student to name the object by feeling and not by vision.
- Sorting objects according to shapes and size
- Place objects in front of the child, take one away and have them name the object.
- While reading, point to text in a left to right progression
- Throw object at a target (distance should be same as a desk to the chalkboard)
- Encourage use of direction (right, left, up, down, top, bottom)
- Tracing pictures in a book
- Imitating block design
- Games such as, Pick Up Sticks, Candyland, & Chutes and Ladders
- Activities such as Etch-A-Sketch or Lite Brite
- Matching and memory games
- Hidden pictures, mazes, dot-to-dot and coloring pages.
- Lacing activities

CLASSROOM TIPS

- Have the child sit in the first or second row.
- Pre-number paper
- Darken or highlight baseline
- Erase unnecessary writing from the board
- Teach the student to copy 2-3 letters at a time to encourage visual motor memory
- Good posture with paper in front of the body and feet on the floor
- Use natural light if possible
- Slant board or 3 ring binder sideways with paper on top
- Use consistent lingo in the classroom instruction
- Highlighter for tracing letters
- Ask your Therakids OT for a “Request for Assistance” form if you need more suggestions.



Suggested websites:

<http://www.yourtherapysource.com/freestuff.html>
www.eyecanlearn.com