

# Visual Perception

## High School

Visual perception is the ability of the brain to interpret visual stimulus ie: give meaning to what one sees. Visual perception can be separated in to the several categories but main areas include visual memory, discriminating and recognising objects and filtering out visual information we do not need. This can often be difficult for children in a busy classroom. Please try the following:

### Strategies

- Position the young person in front of the teacher / board.
- Group work: work face to face across the table to observe visual attention; eye movements and facial expression. Avoid the situation where the individual is peripheral to a group.
- Individuals with visual perceptual difficulties may work most effectively at an angled or vertical surface rather than on horizontal table top.
- Surfaces should give a clear background to writing and drawing e.g. if work is being copied from the board ensure the board is clean and that the work from the previous day cannot be seen.
- Consider amount of information on worksheets/in books. Can this be simplified/extra information e.g coloured drawings blanked out or removed?
- Allow time for the individual to complete written tasks. They may be slower to complete tasks such as copying from the board.
- If it is too difficult and time consuming for the individual to copy off the board, consider providing information in work sheets/ handouts, removing the need to copy
- Use of colour pens/pencils/highlighters e.g. for graph work or diagrams.
- Consider Font type and size of writing on information sheets, worksheets.
- Consistency e.g. for where equipment is kept. Colour code boxes with items
- Try using different coloured work sheets/ paper, lined or large squared paper or spacing grids.



- Encourage use of ruler to aid visual tracking
- Consider alternatives for recording e.g. laptop/ netbook
- Reinforce instructions with demonstration
- Use of checklists to aid memory of task/ instructions in practical tasks
- Check with the young person about what they are finding difficult and what they think may help. Strategies are more successful if the person identifies their own.

