



Visual Discrimination Skills

Visual discrimination skills involve being able to discern subtle similarities and differences. These are critical skills for reading as being able to identify details and differences of shapes and symbols helps create meaning from a group of letters into words, sentences and ideas.

Visual Motor Skills

Hand-eye coordination (e.g. catching a ball, solving a puzzle)

Form Constancy

The ability to discriminate between letters and words that look similar or different.

Visual Closure

The ability to visually combine shapes or letters to form objects or words.

Visual Memory

The ability to remember a visual stimulus accurately.

Visual Tracking

The coordination of moving the eyes when scanning (e.g. environment, reading)

Visual Figure Ground

The ability to pick out an object in a busy background.

Visual Language Association

The ability to associate words and images with the objects they represent.

Visual Language Classification

The ability to classify objects by category (e.g. colour, shape etc)

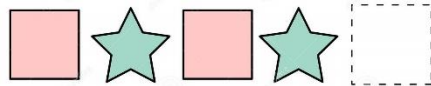
Visual Integration

The ability to integrate all of these areas to gain meaning from a visual stimulus.

There are many different activities, predominantly involving shapes and symbols, that can be used to support the development of visual discrimination skills. These should progress through levels of difficulty ranging from identifying and sorting, to matching, oddity and finally producing. Though recognition of shapes, symbols and print will develop more readily for some than others, all learners must be able to discriminate between shapes and symbols before moving onto letters and words.

Producing

e.g.



Oddity

e.g.



Matching

e.g.



Sorting

e.g.



Identifying

e.g.



It is important to assess learners' visual discrimination skills and ensure that there are opportunities and experiences within the classroom for them to develop and refine their abilities to support effective reading.