

Visual Form Constancy

This is the ability to recognise that an object (the 'form') is still the same thing despite changes in orientation, direction, size or distance. You need to be able to mentally manipulate forms and visualise the resulting outcome.

This skill involves a combination of visual discrimination, visual memory and visual figure ground.

Implications of Poor Visual Form Constancy

- Difficulty constructing from 3D to 2D or 2D to 3D.
- Poor organisation of self and belongings.
- Categorising shapes regardless of size, colour, or texture.
- Recognising geometric shapes.
- Reversals of letters and numbers.
- Confusion of words with similar appearance or recognising the same word in different prints/fonts.
- Interpreting depth, length, height, distance, angle, orientation and size.
- Transferring from printing to cursive script (joined-up writing).

Suggested Activities

- Matching, sorting and grouping games.
- Pouring liquids, weighing and measuring, e.g. when baking.
- Junk modelling – choosing a picture from a book, e.g. of a car, animal, or aeroplane and building a model of it with clean junk (egg boxes, cereal boxes, cardboard tubes from kitchen roll).
- Construction activities – such as Lego, Duplo, K'Nex. Build a model for your child to copy or ask them to copy the example pictures and instructions usually included in the box.
- Grading objects from biggest to smallest.
- Find and match geometric shapes that are rotated, inverted or reversed.
- Circle the same word in different prints.
- Colouring and line drawing of 3D objects.
- Put objects into a bag and feel for two that are the same and then two that are different – ask your child to describe what has changed e.g. size, texture, weight, etc.

Contact details

Children's Therapy Services

Telephone number: 0300 019 2936

For further general health-related information, please ask the relevant department for an information prescription or contact:

The Health Information Centre
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Longfleet Road
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BH15 2JB
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www.uhd.nhs.uk

We can supply this information in other formats, in larger print or have it translated for you. Please call the Patient Experience Team on 0300 019 8499 or email patientexperienceteam@uhd.nhs.uk for advice.

If you wish to make any comments or to ask about any research evidence used to write this leaflet, please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0300 019 8499, write to the Patient Experience Team (address above) or email patientexperienceteam@uhd.nhs.uk

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