

Visual Spatial Relationship

Visual spatial relationship means the ability to sense and interpret the relationship of objects from each other and yourself. It involves judging position, distance and size for example.

Children learn spatial relationships in stages; by understanding their placement in relation to another person, then in relation to an object or an object in relation to them. The final stage is relating objects to each other. This is mainly learned through play.

Implications of Poor Visual Spatial Relationships

Children who have poor visual spatial relationships may have difficulty with:

- Getting dressed – putting clothes on the right way round, not getting them inside out, doing buttons up straight, etc.
- Setting out work on paper.
- Handwriting – size, spacing, orientation to line, shape.
- Drawing – copying shapes/pictures, drawing plans, labelling diagrams.
- Moving in space, e.g. in team games, P.E., working from 3D to 2D, 2D to 3D.
- Organisation of self and belongings.

Early Years Activities

- Hitting a balloon in the air, trying not to let it fall to the ground.
- Obstacle courses – going under, over, through, around and jumping.
- Fuzzy Felt.
- Build a simple 3D model from Duplo, Stickle Bricks or building blocks and ask your child to copy it.
- Finishing pictures, e.g. adding details to face, wheels on a car.
- Ask your child to divide paper, Play Dough, water, sand into equal parts.
- Riding a tricycle/bicycle.
- Games such as Leap Frog, Cat and Mouse.
- Adventure playgrounds.

School Age Activities

- Construction toys e.g. Lego, K'Nex, building blocks.
- Pattern copying with coloured pegs, beads, bricks.
- Jigsaws. Ask your child to make their own by sticking a picture on to card and cutting it in to pieces.
- Paper folding/Origami.
- Obstacle courses and adventure playgrounds.
- Handwriting/fluency patterns – try to keep between lines. This could be done on a blackboard or white board.
- Mazes and dot-to-dot.
- Games such as Leap Frog, Captain's Cabin.
- Arranging a group of children in a line by height.

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:

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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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