

## Occupational Therapy Classroom Strategies for Visual Perceptual Deficits

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Therapist Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Visual Scanning

- Writing on an angle (slant board) or binder may help increase visual field.
- Try high contrast settings on word processor to decrease harshness of screen.
- Encourage the use of a highlighter in workbooks or student copies to visually identify important information and assist in tracking. Try an erasable highlighter (available in whiteout section of Staples) to highlight in school owned textbooks.
- Photocopy onto colored paper if available, colors such as medium blue and green tend to work well.
- Place reading material under a colored report cover
- Encourage the use of a word window (cut from a manila folder) or line guide while reading or following text.
- If overhead lighting is interfering with work, student may need to wear a visor or sunglasses.

### Visual Closure

- Use different colors to see visual differences in strokes.
- Use multisensory method to reinforce awareness of closure-tracing, sky writing rhymes, highlighting.

### Figure Ground

- Minimal distractions on board and desk
- Ask student to retrieve items in the classroom decrease verbal prompts
- Use a red marker or highlight area where answer should be written
- Make a screen that blocks out all but the math problem or activity and move the cutout as the child completes the activities on the page.

### Poor Copying Skills

- Use a sticker to mark top left hand corner where student should start until this becomes a habit.
- Provide a copy of notes to highlight as given, require that something has to be written so that the student does not lose interest and can keep up with the work.
- Place desk in the "front view" positioning of the board when grouping desks.
- Place student to the front of the room near the board to reduce intermediary visual distractions for board copying

### Visual Memory

- Use a letter strip on the student's desk to help with recalling letter formation.

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- Have student combine letter sounds with motor patterns for forming letters. Have him say the letters, then write the letters.
- For word recall, have student try to remember 3-4 letters at a time before writing the words on paper. Encourage the student to repeat letter sequences to himself.

### **Visual Spatial**

- Graph paper can help with spacing of letter or math problems.
- Turn writing paper on its side to assist with lining numbers up vertically.
- Use raised line paper for boundaries, glue may also be used to make raised line paper.
- Number the lines to assist the child in remembering the downward progression for writing.
- Construct a writing frame by cutting out a rectangle from poster board and place it over paper during writing to remind student of outer boundaries of the writing area.
- Allow student to use a rectangular cardboard cut out to follow a reading passage.

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