

Occupational Therapy Tip Sheet VISUAL DISCRIMINATION



What is visual discrimination?

Visual discrimination is the ability to recognize likeness and differences between shapes, sizes, colours, objects, and patterns.

Why is visual discrimination important?

- It allows us to determine what is the same and what is different.
- It helps us to pay attention to details to match things up and notice what does not belong.
- It is needed for reading and writing to correctly identify letters and numbers where there is only a small difference between them (S and 5, 3 and B, etc.).

How does visual discrimination help children?

- To identify shapes, colours, and sizes
- To match clothing, socks, shoes, and cutlery
- To see the difference between similar objects, like coins, letters, numbers

Practice some of the following activities to develop visual discrimination:

• Play sorting and matching games using one or more features (shape, colour, etc.)









OT Mom Learning Activities (busytoddler.com)



(cbc.ca)

Play games and puzzles that require lining up matching sides







(scholastic.com)

Play games that require spotting the difference







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