

Visual Discrimination

Visual discrimination is the ability of the child to be aware of the exact characteristics and distinctive features of forms including shape, orientation, size, and colour. It gives them the ability to notice subtle differences and to identify if something does or does not belong. In reading, this skill helps children distinguish between similarly spelled words, such as was/saw, then/when, on/one, or run/ran.

Visual discrimination is the most commonly used skill and develops at a very early age. Unfortunately, sometimes this skill isn't as polished as it could be. When there is a deficit in this area, "b" and "d" look very alike, circles and ovals are both round, the subtle difference in length is really hard to notice unless it's pointed out.

Pupils who have difficulties in this area may:

- Have problems with learning sight vocabulary
- Have difficulty with letter and number orientation
- Be unable to recall patterns, shapes and designs
- Often confuse similar looking letters and words.
- Find it difficult to match and sort.
- Confuse Maths symbols (+-x÷)
- Won't recall words they have previously read
- Visual discrimination problems may result in a person confusing words with similar beginnings or endings and even entire words.


Twitter and Facebook account :
EducationalAppAdvice
Provides information for when some apps are free !

Activities to develop visual discrimination skills

- Odd One Out - colour, shape, size then pictorial (apple, orange, banana, and cup)
- Spot The Difference - searching for visual similarities and differences between two pictures or words.
- Match The Detail - matching a picture of a detail (such as a window) to the picture from which the detail comes (such as the house that has that window).
- Snap - matching a range of pictorial cards.
- Dominoes - matching picture to picture.
- Matching silhouettes - pictorial or shapes.
- Different Word Circle - Prepare a sheet consisting of sets of words. One word in each group will be different. The child is to circle the word that is different.



can can con can can can
big big pig big big big
was was was was was saw
see sea see see see see
sent sent sent cent sent sent

With older pupils -Try not to use young spot the difference pictures and  if using ipad apps that are for younger children– hide the initial screen so they can't see.

iPad Apps for Visual Discrimination

- Letter Cross Tracking
- The Sorting Machine
- Match it up
- What's Diff 1
- Ebenezer School Apps- Shapes in Complex, Character Match, Find the Same
- Find it Hidden objects for children and toddlers
- Patterns

