

7 Visual Abilities for Learning

1. 20/20 Acuity

The ability to temporarily see tiny letters at twenty feet. If the child lacks 20/20 acuity, it is likely that glasses will be prescribed.

2. Accommodation

The ability to maintain clear vision at all distances. Accommodation problems include:

- has poor reading comprehension,
- avoids reading,
- blinks excessively while reading,
- has frequent headaches or rubs eyes when reading,
- complains that things are blurry even though child's acuity is 20/20,
- moves books or their head closer and further away to 'clear the image',
- makes careless errors when reading or copying from the chalkboard/whiteboard.

3. Eye Teaming Ability

The ability to coordinate the two eyes together so that they both point at precisely the same object. Eye Teaming problems include:

- child covers or closes one eye - rests head in palm of hand which 'just happens' to cover an eye,
- holds books to one side or turns their head to one side when reading,
- adds or removes parts from words,
- repeats letters in words when copying from the chalkboard,
- fails to align the columns of numbers correctly when performing math problems.

4. Eye Movement Ability

This includes moving the eyes from point to point, following a moving object with the eyes, or holding the eyes stationary. Eye Movement problems include:

- moves head rather than eyes when reading,
- frequently loses their place or skips lines,
- beginnings and endings of words are altered or missed - 'Small' words are skipped,
- child needs a finger to keep their place and,
- child is labeled as having a problem with 'attention'.



7 Visual Abilities for Learning *Continued...*

5. Visual Perception

The ability to compare and understand things which are seen. The ability to ‘understand’ information entering their eyes; to compare things and see how they are different. Visual Perception problems include:

- not learning how to read on schedule,
- having difficulty in Kindergarten,
- having problems recognizing letters or numbers past Kindergarten,
- still writing b’s and d’s backwards past the end of First Grade,
- frequently confuses similar beginnings and endings of words,
- recognizes the sounds of individual letters but cannot break words down into syllables.

6. Eye-Hand Coordination

The ability to use the eyes to guide the hands. Eye-Hand Coordination problems include:

- poor handwriting,
- difficulty with spacing their words and keeping them on the line when writing,
- avoids coloring, drawing, or maze-tracking activities – outside the lines when coloring,
- has difficulty keeping the columns lined up when writing math problems,
- has difficulty getting their thoughts down on paper.

7. Visual Imagery Ability

The ability to ‘see pictures in the mind’. There are two separate categories:

- Visual memory is the ability to retrieve or remember a picture of what has been seen in the past,
- Visualization is the ability to form new pictures in your mind. Visual Imagery Ability problems include:
 - persistent difficulty in learning to spell,
 - fails to recognize the same word in the next line,
 - fails to ‘picture in their mind’ what they are reading,
 - has difficulty recalling what they did during the day,
 - loses their place during reading or homework and then has difficulty finding their place.

