

Diagnostic Symptoms for Visual and Auditory Perceptual Disabilities

Introduction

Many times parents may be confused as to what a perceptual disability is and the different types involved. There are many symptoms that may indicate problems in a certain perceptual area. Some of these are observable, while others are discovered through intakes and testing. What follows is a list of symptoms that may reflect perceptual disabilities in a variety of visual areas:

General Visual Perceptual Problems- The student:

- Exhibits poor motor coordination
- Is awkward motorically-frequent tripping, stumbling, bumps into things, has trouble skipping, jumping
- Demonstrates restlessness, short attention span, perseveration
- Exhibits poor handwriting, artwork, drawing
- Exhibits reversals of b,d,p,q,u,n when writing beyond a chronological age of 7 or 8
- Inverts numbers (17 for 71), reverses as well
- Gives correct answers when teacher reads test, but can't put answers down on paper
- Exhibits poor performance in group achievement tests
- Appear brighter than test scores indicate
- Poor perception of time and space.

Visual-Receptive Process Disability- The student:

- Does not enjoy books, pictures
- Fails to understand what is read
- Is unable to give a simple explanation of contents of a picture
- Is unable to categorize pictures

Visual-Association Disability- The student:

- Is unable to tell a story from pictures; can only label objects in the pictures
- Is unable to understand what he or she reads
- Fails to handle primary workbook tasks
- Needs auditory cues and clues

Manual-Expressive Disability-The student:

- Has poor handwriting and drawing
- Communicates infrequently with gestures
- Is poor at "acting out" ideas, feelings
- Is clumsy, uncoordinated
- Plays games poorly; can't imitate other children in games

Visual-Memory Disability- The student:

- Exhibits frequent misspellings, even after undue practice
- Misspells his own name frequently
- Can't write alphabet, numbers, computation facts
- Identifies words one day and fails to the next

Diagnostic Symptoms for Auditory Perceptual Disabilities

What follows is a list of symptoms that may reflect perceptual disabilities in a variety of auditory areas.

General Auditory Perceptual Indicators- The student:

- Appears less intelligent than IQ tests indicate
- Does many more things than one would expect: puts puzzles together, fixes broken objects, and so on
- Appears to have a speech problem
- May emphasize wrong syllables in words
- May sequence sounds oddly
- May use "small words" incorrectly
- Appears not to listen or comprehend
- Watches teacher's or adult's faces intently, trying to grasp words

Auditory Receptive Process Disability- The student:

- Fails to comprehend what he or she hears
- Exhibits poor receptive vocabulary
- Fails to identify sounds correctly
- Fails to carry out directions

Auditory Association Disability- The student:

- Fails to enjoy being read to him by someone else
- Has difficulty comprehending questions
- Raises hand to answer question but gives foolish response
- Is slow to respond; takes a long time to answer
- Has difficulty with abstract concepts presented auditorily

Verbal Expressive Disability- The student:

- Mispronounces common words
- Uses incorrect word endings and plurals
- Omits correct verbal endings
- Makes grammatical or syntactical errors that do not reflect those of his or her parents
- Has difficulty blending sounds

Auditory Memory Disability: The student:

- Does not know address or phone number
- Fails to remember instructions
- Has difficulty memorizing nursery rhymes or poems
- Has difficulty knowing the alphabet