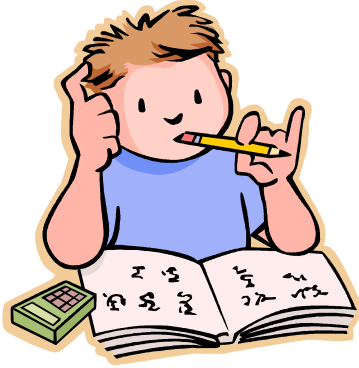


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# Visual Processing Disorder



Visual Processing Disorders affect how the brain perceives and processes what the eye sees. A visual processing disorder can cause difficulty in seeing the difference between two similar letters, shapes, or objects; or noticing the similarities and differences between certain colors, shapes, and patterns. These disorders can occur without any vision impairment. Like all learning disabilities, visual processing disorders can cause lifelong challenges with specific everyday tasks, such as putting things in sequence, copying numbers or words, remembering phone numbers, spelling, judging time, and reading maps.

## Strategies for Early Childhood

- Use books, worksheets and other materials with enlarged print.
- Read written directions aloud. Vary teaching methods: written and spoken words; images and sounds.
- Break assignments and chores into clear, concise steps. Often multiple steps can be difficult to visualize and complete.
- Give examples and point out the important details of visual information (the part of a picture that contains information for a particular question).
- Provide information about a task before starting to focus attention on the activity.

## Strategies for School Age Children

- Allow student to write answers on the same sheet of paper as the questions or offer opportunities for student to explain answers orally.
- Provide paper for writing and math work that has darker or raised lines to make the boundaries more distinct.
- Organize assignments to be completed in smaller steps instead of one large finished product.
- Use a ruler as a reading guide (to keep focus on one line at a time) and a highlighter (to immediately emphasize important information).
- Provide a tape recorder to supplement note-taking.
- Have a proofreading buddy for notes and essays.

## Strategies for Teens and Adults

- Color-code important information.
- Have a proof-reading buddy for all written materials.
- Use a tape recorder when getting important information.
- Before writing letters or essays, create an outline to simplify and organize ideas.

**Resource:** The National Center on Learning Disabilities  
<http://www.ncld.org/types-learning-disabilities/adhd-related-issues/visual-processing-disorders>

For more information contact Marsha Rivas, Equal Access Ministries, Diocese of Toledo,  
419-244-6711 [mrivas@toledodiocese.org](mailto:mrivas@toledodiocese.org).



Equal Access Ministries  
Diocese of Toledo