

Writing Center



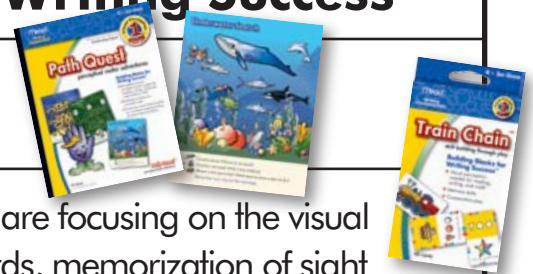
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March 09

PARENT EDITION

Discover Writing Success™

Visual Perceptual Skills



Dear Parent/Guardian: This month in the writing center we are focusing on the visual perceptual skills needed for proper alignment of letters and words, memorization of sight words, proper letter formation, direction following and spelling. Each week will focus on a different aspect of these skills. In total, there are 7 different visual perceptual skills. We are covering 4 of them this month. Excellent activities to supplement the ideas below include **Train Chain™** which are visual perceptual dominoes and **Path Quest™** perceptual motor adventures. Both products provide activities to strengthen skills in all 7 visual perceptual areas. Here are some activities you can encourage at home to reinforce what your child is learning in the writing center:

Week 1 – Visual Discrimination

- “What’s the Diff?” pictures from children’s magazines/ workbooks that ask the child to identify the differences between 2 similar pictures.
- Give your child a variety of items, for example colored toothpicks, different types of beans and pastas, or any additional small items. Have your child sort the items into piles, either by shape or size (differences should be subtle)
- Play Copy My Design (Don’t let me trick you!) -Make designs with Wikki Stix® or popsicle sticks and vary how they meet up (overlapped a little, spaced apart, at an angle). Next, have your child copy the design – encourage your child to look very carefully and find their own mistakes. If they need help, tell them the mistake, but have them correct their own errors.



On your turn, make a mistake on purpose. Ask the child to check yours to make sure you copied their design correctly.

- Talk about similarities/ differences between 2 similar objects
 - o Tennis shoe/boot
 - o Rose/Tulip
 - o Cherry tree/Oak tree
 - o Cardinal/Blue Jay



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Week 2 – Visual Memory

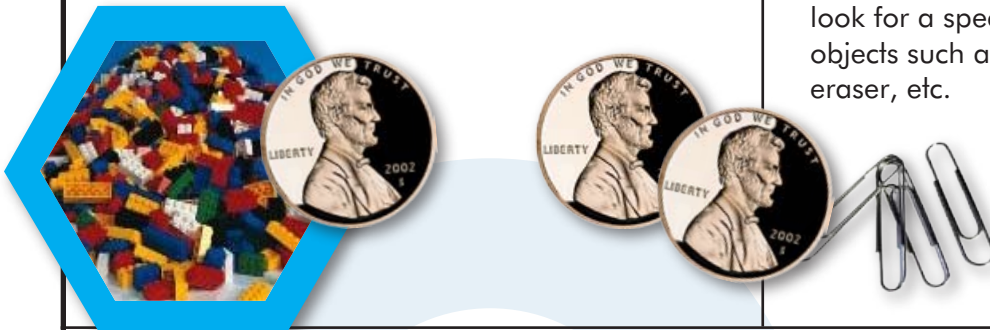
- Play “What’s Missing?” - Provide: 5 – 10 different items (small ball, spoon, small car, block, crayon, keys, etc.) from home. Start with 5 items in Kindergarten and increase the number as your child learns the game and has success. Kids in 3rd grade may be able to play this game with more than 10 objects—follow your child’s lead! Place the items on the table or floor in a random manner. Encourage your child to study the objects for approximately 10 seconds. Ask your child to cover his/her eyes. Remove one object. Have your child open their eyes and ask, “What’s Missing?” Take turns.
- Let your child look at an object from around the house for a few seconds. Hide it and then ask the child to describe it (i.e. The butterfly magnet had purple wings with yellow circles on them. It had a black body and curly antennae).
- Play a game of memory – there are a lot of memory games on the market and online
- Build a design with blocks, sticks, Legos. Have your child look at the design for 10 seconds. Take it away and have your child reproduce the design from memory. Use 3-5 items for Kindergarten and 4-7 items for 1st grade and up.

Week 3 – Visual Sequential Memory

- Gather 2 identical sets of blocks/toys/beads or Skittles/M&Ms (if they get it right, they can eat them). Set out a pattern of 2-7 objects. Let your child look at the objects for 10 seconds and then cover them. Ask your child to make the same pattern with his/her objects.
- Make an Obstacle Course - Demonstrate a 4-5 part series of actions – jump forward, clap, turn around, do 5 jumping jacks OR crab walk to the kitchen, crawl under the table, roll to the couch, do 5 sit-ups. Have your child repeat the actions without telling them the steps (you may have to give hints at first).

Week 4 – Visual Figure Ground

- Play “I Spy” around the house, on a walk, in the car, at the grocery store
- Make an “I Spy” bottle - fill an empty water bottle with beads and various objects. Have the child rotate the bottle and shake it to find specific objects in the bottle. Make a list of items hidden among the beads so your child can look at the list and look for a specific item. Items can be small objects such as a plastic ring, paper clip, penny, eraser, etc.



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These activities are meant to be fun and motivating. Daily practice will help to improve your child’s writing success. Happy Writing!

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