

# What are the Signs of a Visual Processing Disorder?

Visual Processing Disorder (VPD), a visual perceptual deficit, causes issues with how the brain processes visual information. Individuals with VPD see fine, they just have trouble interpreting and processing visual information. While VPD can manifest in various signs and symptoms, here are some common signs associated with VPD:

## **Difficulty with Visual Discrimination**

If the individual has VPD, they may not be able to see the differences or similarities in different objects and letters. For example, a student with VPD may not tell a square from a triangle.

### **Poor Hand-Eye Coordination**

VPD causes difficulty in tasks requiring coordination between visual input and motor skills. For example, an individual with VPD may struggle with catching a ball, threading a needle, or handwriting.

### **Problems with Visual Memory**

The individual might have difficulty remembering visual information, such as faces, shapes, or sequences of letters or numbers.

## **Issues with Spatial Awareness**

VPD causes the individual to struggle with understanding spatial relationships. This looks like the inability to read a map, organize their desk, or understand directions.

#### **Visual Sequential Memory Problems**

The individual might struggle to recall the order of visual information. For example, the individual may forget sequential instructions.

#### **Visual Figure-Ground Discrimination**

VPD creates issues with distinguishing objects from the background. For instance, the individual can't find objects in cluttered environments or recognize patterns in complex images.

### **Sensitivity to Visual Stimuli**

Some individuals with VPD may be overly sensitive to visual stimuli. For example, they may be distracted or experience discomfort when they see bright lights, patterns, or certain colors.

### **Difficulty with Visual Attention & Concentration**

The individual may have problems focusing on visual tasks for an extended period.

### **Poor Depth Perception**

The individual has difficulty judging distances and spatial relationships. This looks like stubbing their toes frequently, running into walls, experiencing trouble while catching a ball, or bumping into teammates while playing sports.

If you suspect your child has VPD and it's affecting their education, early educational intervention is crucial. Addressing these issues early on can prevent academic and social challenges for your child. To find out how to get an evaluation to see if your child has VPD, check out this article! If you're interested in learning more about getting a diagnosis, we encourage you to check with our team, or your local physician.

If you have any questions or need assistance navigating this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to <a href="mailto:hello@loveyourschool.org">hello@loveyourschool.org</a>! If you have more questions, we want to hear from you!

#### More Resources:

Classroom Accommodations For Visual Processing Issues - Understood.Org

Visual Processing Disorders - Touch Type Read Spell

**Understanding Visual Perception and Visual Motor Skills - NAPA** 

<u>Visual and Auditory Processing Disorders - National Center for Learning Disabilities</u>