



Eye Priority, P.C.

Newsletter Archives

A Closer Look At: Visual Processing Skills

What is visual processing?

This term refers to a group of skills necessary for interpreting and understanding what is seen. Accurate and smooth visual processing is essential for success in school, and, as recent research indicates, in interpersonal interactions as well.

How does visual processing skill help us to succeed in school?

Most learning – nearly 80% of what we perceive, remember, and comprehend – is visual. Remembering what we see (visual memory) and taking accurate notes (visual motor integration) are two examples of learning-related tasks that require skill in visual processing.

What does research tell us about interpersonal interactions and visual processing skills?

A recent Durham (England) University study of autistic individuals suggests differences in visual processing skills and an inability to accurately perceive certain patterns of motion.

According to Dr. Anthony Atkinson, who led the study: “The way people move their bodies tells us a lot about their feelings or emotions, and we use this information on a daily basis to communicate with each other. We use others’ body movements and postures, as well as peoples’ faces and voices, to gauge their feelings. People with autism are less able to use these clues to make accurate judgments about how others are feeling.

“Our findings point to a difficulty in perceiving or attending to motion as a contributor to the problem of gauging people’s emotions.”

Can visual processing skills be improved?

Vision therapy can effectively improve visual processing skills, whether in typically developing individuals or those with Autism Spectrum Disorder. A Vision Therapy Evaluation is an important first step.



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