Visual Perceptual Skills – Secondary

Definition of visual perception and its importance:

Visual perception is the overarching term used to describe the different visual skills that help us gather, process and make sense of what we see. Visual Closure, Visual Form Constancy, Visual Discrimination, Visual Figure-Ground, Visual Memory/Sequential Memory and Visual Spatial Relations are the core visual perceptual skills needed for most tasks we carry out on a daily basis.

Ways to help accommodate visual perceptual skill difficulties:

- If possible, allow extra time to process visual information
- Narrate visual presentations aloud
- Offer reading guide strips or overlays to block out other lines of text when reading
- Use a writing slope or three-ring binder to bring work closer to the individual's visual field
- Keep the area around the individual clear of distractions and clutter
- Avoid worksheets/documents with lots of non-essential text and images
- Rather than asking an individual to refer to/copy from the board in class, provide a paper copy of the work that they can have by their side
- Have highlighters to mark out information/text when reading
- Provide wide-ruled paper with darkened or highlighted lines and margins to help form letters in the right space
- Include simple diagrams, pictures or visual cues, where suitable, to help clarify written information
- Break tasks down and summarise information into small, manageable chunks
- Encourage comfortable, supported sitting (e.g. feet on the floor and elbows resting on the table at a 90-degree angle) or straight standing at a vertical surface.