

This is general information for your knowledge and understanding of how to support students with learning disabilities. It is important to remember that Visual Processing Disorder affects all people differently. Speak with the student and family to understand how Visual Processing Disorder affects the student and their learning and environmental needs. It is not Tutor Doctor's role to suggest a learning disability is present in a student, diagnose learning disabilities, suggest a course of action with the school, or to suggest treatment for learning disabilities.

What is Visual Processing Disorder?

Visual Processing Disorder affects the brain's ability to recognize and interpret information taken in by the eyes. This is not a visual difficulty, but differences in the way the brain deals with the information provided by the sense of sight.

Visual Processing Disorder is also called **Visual Perceptual Disorder** or **Visual Processing Deficit**.

What does Visual Processing Disorder impact?

Visual Processing Disorder can affect:

- **Spatial Relation:** the ability to perceive objects in relation to other objects.
 - Difficulty reading or solving math equations as space is what determines where letters come together to form words; where words are separate from other words; where numbers and symbols are separate units; and where numbers begin and end.
- **Visual Discrimination:** the ability to distinguish different objects based on their individual characteristics.
 - Difficulty with letter and number recognition
 - Interpreting information from photos, diagrams, charts, graphs, or images
- The ability to read or spell words that are not phonetic
- Recognizing important information on assignments and tests
- Keeping their place in the text when reading

Strategies for Supporting Students Who Have Visual Processing Disorder:

- Reduce visual stimuli in tutoring materials- too much visual detail can cause confusion and/or agitation.
- Try auditory learning strategies (see the Learning Styles Guide for ideas).
- Use wide ruled writing paper with darker lines.
- Chunking- break tutoring sessions and school assignments into small chunks.
- Use a ruler or blank white paper as a reading guide. Cover up the text below what the student is reading or cut a rectangle in the paper to expose one line of text at a time.
- Help the student highlight important information.
- Give oral and written instructions.
- Write instructions in a different color.
- Describe visuals aloud.
- Summarize each tutoring session together.

- Allow more time for the student to process visual information.
- Use highlighters or sticky notes to draw attention to important information.
- Draw bold, black borders around math problems to help the student focus on one problem at a time, fold worksheets, or cover the problems not being worked on with blank white paper.
- Clearly space words or problems on a page.