

TEST OF VISUAL PERCEPTION SKILLS (TVPS)

Available through PICC LEAH Support & Services

Have you ever wondered if your student has vision-based learning problems even though they have no trouble reading an eye chart? If they are struggling with reading, spelling, handwriting, math and comprehension, they may have challenges with visual perception skills.

Visual perception is the ability to see and interpret (analyze and give meaning to) the visual information that surrounds us. The process of "taking in" one's environment is referred to as perception. If perception is inaccurate, incorrect, or altered in any way, problems with reading, spelling, handwriting, math and comprehension occur. Visual perceptual skills involve the ability to organize and interpret the information that is seen and give it meaning. The importance of visual perceptual skills in academic success is agreed upon by many, acknowledging reading would not be possible without adequate visual perception.

What is the Test of Visual Perception Skills (TVPS):

TVPS is a formal standardized norm referenced assessment test to determine the visual perceptual strengths and weaknesses of students aged 4 through 18. Visual perception is an important ability that enables one to make sense out of what is seen (in contrast to visual acuity tests, which determine just that something was seen by the individual).

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Visual perceptual processing impacts the ability to learn.

Without accurate visual perceptual processing, a student would have difficulty learning to read, give or follow directions, copy from the whiteboard, visualize objects or past experiences, have good eye-hand coordination, integrate visual information with other senses to do things like ride a bike, play catch, shoot baskets when playing basketball, or hear a sound and visualize where it is coming from (like the siren on a police car).

TVPS tests visual perceptual skills in the seven key component areas:

1. **Visual Discrimination:** The ability to notice detail differences such as shape, size, color, or other dimensional aspects.
2. **Form Constancy (Form Discrimination):** The ability to perceive positional aspect differences and recognize objects when they are in a different orientation or format.
3. **Figure Ground (Foreground-Background Differentiation):** The ability to focus on a selected target and screen out or ignore irrelevant images.
4. **Spatial Relations:** The ability to recognize the positioning of objects in space.
5. **Visual Closure:** The ability to recognize an object, letter or number without seeing all of the object.
6. **Visual Sequencing:** The ability to see objects in a particular sequential order.
7. **Visual Memory:** The ability to remember forms (letters) and sequences of forms (words) and recognize them quickly when seen again.

When visual information is perceived or processed incorrectly, it cannot be matched or integrated with our other senses. Instead of reinforcing learning experiences, it distracts and interferes. If what is seen cannot be "trusted", it hinders the ability to learn. Poor visual perceptual processing is not something a student "outgrows". If undiagnosed or left untreated, the student with poor visual perceptual processing will continue to fall behind in class even though it may appear they are working harder than other students in the same class.

Time Required: 60 minutes

TVPS Cost: Suggested \$30 non-deductible donation to NYS LEAH for PICC LEAH. The donation covers the cost of test administration, scoring, formal assessment report, and recommendations.

TVPS Assessment Report:

- The TVPS assessment report includes student TVPS scores versus norms and recommendation(s).
- The TVPS assessment report is provided only to the parent for private use.
- All information is confidential.

Requirements of Administration:

- Family must be a current LEAH member. Your current membership will be verified.
- Student must be homeschooled child of LEAH member family.
- Must be age 5 or older. If your student recently turned 5 years old, please contact the PICC LEAH Office PRIOR to registering.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be present for the entire duration of testing.
- Parents must sign a Consent to Screen form.

How to Register for a TVPS Appointment:

Please contact the PICC Office at email: picc@nysleah.org or call 1-866-960-9440 ext. 3 with the following information:

- Your student's name
- Your Student's age
- Your Student's CURRENT Grade Level
- Name of the LEAH Chapter you are a member of

Parents/Guardians will be sent a **TVPS Student Pre-Registration** and **TVPS Consent to Test** forms to fill out and return with pre-payment \$30 suggested donation payable to NYS LEAH for PICC LEAH to the **PICC LEAH Office**.