

VISUAL PROCESSING

What is this developmental skill?

Visual processing is the brain's ability to interpret and organize what the eyes see. It supports recognizing patterns, locating objects, judging distance, coordinating eye movements, and understanding visual information.

How does this normally develop?

Visual skills develop through exploration, play, reading, puzzles, drawing, building, and navigating the environment. The brain gradually becomes more efficient at organizing visual input into meaningful information.

How can neglect interfere with its development?

Children experiencing neglect may have fewer opportunities for visual exploration, play, and learning. Chronic stress may also narrow visual attention toward detecting potential threats rather than exploring the broader environment.

What might this look like?

Children may:

- Lose items frequently.
- Become overwhelmed by clutter.
- Struggle with puzzles.
- Have difficulty copying from a board.
- Miss visual details.
- Become distracted in visually busy environments.

Parenting Implications

Keep environments organized, reduce unnecessary visual clutter, use visual schedules and routines, and provide games that encourage visual attention and organization.

From Understanding to Attunement

Rather than assuming carelessness, caregivers can recognize that the child's brain may simply have difficulty organizing visual information efficiently.