Vision, The Missing Link:

About 70% of all sensory input to the brain comes from the visual system. Given its importance in sensory input, vision is frequently under-represented in sensory integration therapy programs. Individuals on the Autism Spectrum have a higher probability of having sensory integration difficulties. It is difficult for other senses to connect and function efficiently without the visual integration needed to understand how to look, what to look at, and where to look.

**Vision Deficits in Autism Spectrum:**

- Poor or absent 3-D vision affects fine and gross motor skills making basic skills such as catching a ball or riding a bike difficult
- Poor perception of visual space can lead to toe walking, or over-organizing of objects to bring order to space
- Difficulty with switching between central attention and peripheral awareness will make it difficult to attend to the person or object of interest
- Deficits in visual integration cause confusion in guiding motor and understanding the world
- Deficits with eye movements cause difficulty with tracking words or objects
• Difficulty making eye contact and discerning the direction of a speaker’s gaze impact basic understanding of social and non-verbal cues

Vision Therapy for Autism Related Vision Deficits can help increase:

• Sustained visual attention, making other sensory integration therapies more effective
• Direct visual fixation on targets of interest
• Eye contact
• Visual understanding of space and 3-D allowing for markedly improved visual-motor skills
• Visual integration with other senses
• Balance and coordination
• Language skills; as less effort is needed to make sense of objects

Vision Therapy for autism related vision deficits can help decrease:

• Visual confusion
• Frustration and behavior
• Clumsiness

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