

Functional Vision Assessment Questions

A functional vision assessment measures how well a student uses his/her vision to participate in routine tasks throughout the day. A functional vision assessment gives us an idea of how a student...

- Uses his/her vision and
- What visual skills s/he needs to develop

Generally a Functional Vision Assessment reviews...

- Vision difficulties identified (acuity, optic nerve, retinal health, etc.)
- Visual Acuity at Near and Far
- Best visual field for the student (central, peripheral, upper or lower visual fields)
- A student's ability to localize the visual stimulus
- A student's ability to fix their gaze on an object/person, etc.
- A student's ability to use their eyes to 'scan' for an object
- A student's ability to follow the movement of an object/person or activity
- A student's ability to look back and forth between objects
- A student's use of one eye more often than the other
- A student's ability to identify, see or have colour preferences
- A student's ability to 'look and reach' (eye hand coordination)

Questions to explore...

- What type and placement of lighting is best suited for the student's vision? (e.g., overhead, behind, softer lighting, etc.)
- Is contrast necessary for the student to be able to use their vision most effectively? (i.e., a good contrast between background and foreground, colour contrasts etc.)
- What is the optimal size of an object for the student's visual needs?
- What is the visual field for the student? (e.g., How far and where should an object be placed?)
- What is the processing time for the student's vision to be able to see the object/picture?
- Is the student better able to see pictures or objects? (i.e., do pictures have meaning for the student?)
- What are the optimal conditions for the student to be able to use their vision (e.g., size, complexity, colour, shape, contrast, movement, etc.)
- What is the best placement and environmental conditions for an object to be seen?
- Does the student need other sensory input to facilitate the use of his/her vision?

