
Reduced Visual Acuity



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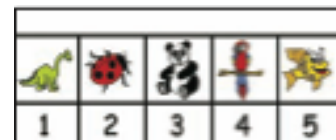
Visual acuity is poorer in all people with Down syndrome. Up to 50% of people with Down syndrome need to wear glasses but 100% of the population of people with Down syndrome have poor visual acuity.

Visual acuity is still poor even when a person with Down Syndrome is wearing correctly fitted glasses for either long or short sight. How people with Down syndrome see the world:



Visual acuity in a person with DS acuity

Their world lacks fine details and sharp contrasts.



Clear visual

What can we do to help?

- People with Down syndrome are visual learners so big and bold printed materials and images will help them to succeed in everyday tasks.
- Be aware of poorer visual acuity and make simple changes.

Think **BIG**, Think **BOLD**

Reduced Visual Acuity in the Classroom

As children become more proficient in reading the text in books and worksheets get smaller. This may impact their ability to stay on track and may result in not completing tasks and becoming frustrated.

Strategies for overcoming vision difficulties

- Move child's desk, or seat closer to the front or close to focal point.

Whiteboard

- Use larger text and emphasise key words in different colours but avoid blue and green together.
- Reduce the text to be copied or provide a printed version on the desk.

Worksheets

- Increase the contrast i.e. bold black on white.
- **Text no smaller than 18 point font.**
- Uncluttered and less detailed.
- Sentences and paragraphs well spaced.
- Avoid colour photos photocopied in black and white. Use coloured photos and pictures where possible.

Letter formation and written tasks

- Use only black felt pen, pen and dark pencils.
- Always use bold well spaced lines. Do not use books with thin blue lines as they will not be able to see the lines.

Further support

Our School Liaison Service can provide further advice and support. Contact us by emailing: info@upsanddowns.net