

Area 5

Sensory Input

A child discovers the world around them while attending to the sights, sounds, smells, taste, and textures that are everywhere. A child continually gives meaning to sensory perceptions and organizes new information with existing knowledge.

Visual Attention, Perception, and Memory

Visual input is received through large body movement as a newborn learns depth perception - how far, close, high, low – something is in space. Finer visual discrimination is developed as differences between colors, shapes, sizes, and symbols are detected. At the same time, figure-ground perception is evolving as a child identifies objects from cluttered backgrounds. These skills eventually lead to reading readiness for printed symbols.

Hearing Attention, Perception, and Memory

Hearing is present in the womb. A newborn is sensitive to pitch, length, and volume of sounds. By one year of age, a baby discriminates subtle differences in sound and recognizes many words. A child's hearing perception and processing are the first step in allowing meaning to develop from what is heard.

Suggested Items

- toys
- beads
- objects (different types/shapes)
- books

Similar items may be substituted.

Sensory Input

Visual Attention, Perception, and Memory

Names a removed object when shown several familiar objects for a few seconds...

- show 3 objects, remove 1 object, and ask the child which one is missing
- show 4 objects, remove 1 object, and ask the child which one is missing

Adult says: "Look at these objects for a few seconds." (Then take 1 object away while child is not looking.) "Tell me which object is missing."

Tells whether 2 simple pictures are...

- the same or different

Adult says: "Are these 2 pictures exactly the same?"

Recognizes simple repeating patterns...

- matches a sequence or pattern of 3 to 6 shapes/beads

Adult says: "Which of these patterns is the same as this pattern of shapes?"

- continues a pattern of shapes/beads in a sequence

Adult says: "Continue on with this same pattern of shapes that you see here."

Names or points to the missing part...

- of a simple picture, such as a missing wheel on a car or a missing leg on a horse.

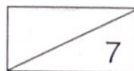
Adult says: "Tell me what is missing in this picture."

Recalls...

- any 4 objects seen in a simple picture shown to the child for 4 seconds.

Adult says: "Name 4 things you saw in the picture."

Visual Attention, Perception, and Memory Total:



Circle this number on the *Developmental Chart - Sensory Input*. (p. 37)

Sensory Input

Hearing Attention, Perception, and Memory

Imitates several animal sounds...

- arf, meow, moo, oink, baa, neigh

Adult says: "Say the sound that a _____ (dog, cat, cow, pig, sheep, horse) makes."

Repeats sentences accurately...

- 3 syllables: "Toys are fun."
 4 syllables: "I want that ball."
 5-6 syllables: "I am a big boy (girl) now."
 7-8 syllables: "I like peanut butter cookies."
 10 syllables: "The black, furry cat ran through the backyard."

Adult says: "Say this sentence just like I say it."

Identifies at least 3 objects by...

- the sounds they make.

Follows related requests in correct order...

- 2-step commands:

Adult says: "Get the ball and put it in the box."

- 3-step commands:

Adult says: "Hold your hand up, touch your nose, then stick out your tongue."

Repeats sequences of numbers...

- 2 digits: 4 - 7
 3 digits: 3 - 8 - 5
 4 digits: 2 - 7 - 6 - 10
 5 digits: 3 - 1 - 8 - 6 - 9

Adult says: "Say these numbers after me."

Follows unrelated requests in correct order...

- 2-step commands:

Adult says: "Open the door, then pick up the book."

- 3-step commands:

Adult says: "Throw me the ball, kiss the doll, then give me the cup."

Understands complex directions...

- Examples of directions: "Point to the tall boy who is not running." "Point to the small dog with brown ears and spots."

Hearing Attention, Perception, and Memory Total:

16

Circle this number on the **Developmental Chart - Sensory Input**. (p. 37)