

## Pre-School activities to promote the development of perceptual skills

### **Figure ground discrimination** – the ability to differentiate an object from its background

- “*Spot it*” pictures – these are often found in children’s comics e.g. how many apples can you see in the tree? You can also buy special looking at books, such as “1001 things to spot at the farm” published by Usbourne books.
- *Shape tracing* – draw three shapes or objects that are overlapping. Ask the child to identify the objects in the picture, then trace over one of them.
- *Simple Jigsaw puzzles* – start with simple puzzles with only 2 or 3 pieces. Place the pieces on the table in the correct orientation and next to their place at first. Gradually introduce puzzles with more pieces as the child’s confidence grows. Talk about the picture that you are completing.
- *Sort the washing* – ask the child to help sort the dry washing by collecting together, for example, all the socks or t-shirts.
- *Select cutlery* – ask the child to pick out the spoons from the cutlery draw when laying the table.

### **Form perception** – the ability to recognise shapes

- “*Spot it*” pictures – often found in magazines, the children have to find as many circles in the picture as possible.
- *Colouring* – the child colours all the squares in the picture.
- *Looking* – as you walk along the street ask the child to spot triangles etc.
- *Collecting* – ask the child to collect as many rectangles from around the house as they can.
- *Shape matching* – ask the child to draw lines to connect the same shapes drawn on a page.
- *Sort the washing* – ask the child to put together the socks.
- *Make biscuits* – use different shaped cutters.

## Early Years Support & Assessment Team (EYSAT)

- *Put the washing-up away* – ask the child to sort the cutlery as they put it away.

### **Other games:**

Magnetic shape games

Tap-a-shape

Fuzzy felt

Shape sorters