

Touching and understanding Figure-ground perception



Activity: Searching for objects in a cluttered environment

Set-up of the activity

0-2

- Let the client search for a familiar object when presented among two less familiar objects.

2-4

- Let the client search for an object within a confined area, such as a laundry basket or trunk/ toy box with objects.
- Begin with an object that is clearly different from the other objects.
- First let the client feel the object that he must look for.
- Gradually decrease the difference between the object the client must look for and the other objects.

4-6

- First let the client feel one or several objects.
- Now let the client search for the objects when they are presented among other objects in a laundry basket or trunk. You can also hide the object among various cutlery and kitchen utensils.
- Only describe the object that the client must look for without letting him first feel the object.

Points for observation and focus

- Observe which searching strategy the client uses.
- Check how the client deals with a smaller or bigger search area.
- Observe whether the background distracts the client and whether he finds the background bothersome.
- Check whether the client notices the difference between background and object.
- Observe whether the client prefers certain materials.

Alternative materials

- Looking for objects in the grass
- Finding a chip in a non-smooth background, such as a towel or a knitted sweater
- Finding his own socks in a laundry basket
- Finding his own cup in the kitchen cupboard
- Finding a wooden spoon in a jar of spoons
- Recognising his own shoes or slippers

Can also be used in the categories

- Touch sensitivity (TST)
- Perception of detail (PD)