

Why Do They Do That?

Reversals



In this series of articles, we will be looking at a variety of things kids do, which are termed dysfunctional or indicators of a struggle, and what is actually causing them



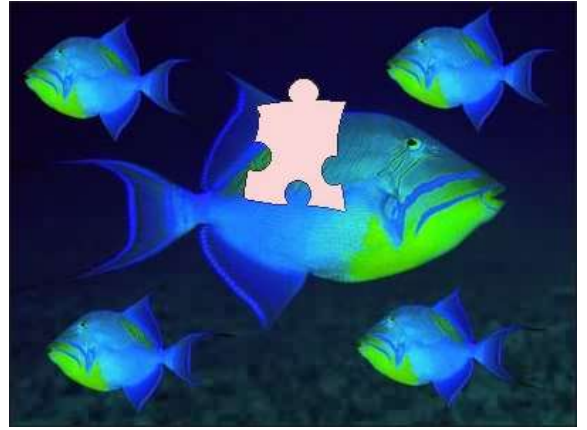
In children who struggle, the reversal of letters and/or numbers is common; the reversal of words is uncommon and the reversal of whole sentences is rare. But all reversals have one thing in common, they are caused by

A breakdown in the capacity to form relative inter-relationships between visual cues

So what does this mean?

At the core of our capacity to process and integrate sensory information is our capacity to relate pieces of information to one another, in order to make sense of our world and the things that are in it. Just think of a jigsaw puzzle, and how the pieces need to be fitted together in the

correct way, so that the picture emerges. This is what we are doing at the most basic level within our perceptual performance, and we are doing this constantly, across all of our sensory modalities. However, we have to have a very specific skill, and it needs to be working properly, in order to do this effectively and efficiently, and that skill is the capacity to form inter-relationships between those pieces of sensory information.



Forming inter-relationships naturally allows patterns of sensory information to coalesce – just think of the jigsaw again and how, if we put all the red pieces together, we get to see a pattern in the picture. Fundamentally our capacity to recognise and construct patterns is at the heart of our ability to make sense of the world, but it is our capacity to form those inter-relationships, which allows those patterns to coalesce.

Most things in our world, including objects, environments, situations and thoughts are comprised of a multitude of patterns; however, all of skills, abilities and actions of the body are also comprised of patterns. It is no mistake that we speak of motor patterns and speech patterns, etc, and, these two areas of performance, are excellent examples of how truly profound, our capacity in pattern recognition and construction, and the formation of inter-relationships, actually are.

To add to the complexity of our ability to form inter-relationships, we also have to be able to approach an object, situation or environment, along with any thoughts we have about them, from a multitude of different angles, and still know what they are, what to do with them, or how they work and go together. Basically, we need to know what an object is and what to do with it, no matter what context it exists in, in order for our performance to remain consistent and functional at all times, ie: we have to be able to respond to what we perceive fluidly, spontaneously, instantaneously, accurately and effectively at all times.



Kids who demonstrate reversals are telling us that they are unable to form these crucial inter-relationships. There is a breakdown in their visual perceptual performance, meaning that there is a limitation in how they are able to look at something and make sense of it. Ultimately, this inability to makes sense of all relative relationships in a situation, results in the child having information missing from what they are perceiving. Because all of the task performance we generate, is generated on the basis of what we perceive, their performance in the world will also have that same information missing and will be disrupted by this.



Here's how it goes:

The child looks at something and there is a limitation in the number of inter-relationships they form. Basically, there will be gaps in what they are perceiving because, that limitation in inter-relationships translates into information not being included into what they are perceiving.



Any task performance being generated, will also have that information missing and it shows up as a breakdown in their task performance. We will be able to see that their processes and outcomes don't work as they should, which is the basic definition of a dysfunctional mode task performance.

Just think of that jigsaw puzzle again, where the missing pieces create holes in the finished product. Only, in this situation those holes are telling us there is a breakdown in what was perceived.

Now the reality is that anyone learning how to do something new, is going to demonstrate gaps in their task performance, along with outcomes that are less than ideal; however, the difference is for these kids is that they do not yet have the skill base, which supports a functional mode of task performance. If we give the child that skill base, and The Visual Perceptual Therapy does exactly that, the child's struggle quickly resolves, and they go out and get on in life as we would want them to.

Simply put, reversals are always indicative that the child just doesn't know how the **c** of a **d** relates to the down stroke, **1**.

The question is, does it go here



Or here



And the child is only ever telling us they do not know where it goes or how to work it out. In *The Visual Perceptual Therapy* these children always twirl the blocks as well, for the exact same reason – they don't know how to orient them relative to each other or the pattern they are copying. Fortunately, this can be one of the easiest issues to correct for most kids.

So if you have a child who does reversals or who struggles in school, we guarantee that it will be worth your while, to talk to us. You can book an initial Skype consultation here and, because the Visual Perceptual Therapy is available via Skype, we can meet your needs no matter where in the world you are.

 **Book Now!**

*Welcome you to my world, the world of
visual perceptual performance*

Natoya Rose
Occupational Therapist

