About Visual Discrimination  Children need to be able to accurately form, compare, contrast, and recognize visual images. These visual discrimination skills are essential as young learners strive to recognize and write the letters of the alphabet. Children who are able to readily distinguish between words and recognize common letter combinations are better readers.

In Reading Readiness and the accompanying materials, children practice visualization, make visual comparisons, and duplicate visual images. The focus is on shapes and alphabet letters.

Packet 1 Objective: Form, distinguish between, and duplicate visual images.

Class Activity: My Eyes Can Visualize

Materials: Visualization Cards (1 copy of the page, cards cut apart)
Outcome: Visualize simple shapes.

1. Explain that you will describe a simple black shape. Ask children to close their eyes and picture or visualize the shape as you describe it.
   • It is round like a button, but it has no holes.

2. Let volunteers describe the shape they visualized (dot, filled-in circle), and have one of the volunteers find the correct Visualization Card. Hold up the card and repeat the original description, pointing out the features as you mention them.

3. Repeat the activity with the following descriptions:
   • It has 4 corners. It has 4 sides, all the same length.
   • This line makes half a circle, like a rainbow does.
   • It is round like a button, but it has just one big hole in the middle.
   • This shape has 3 sides and 3 corners. It points up like a mountain.
   • It is a wide line going up. At the top, it has a point like a pencil point.

Worksheet: Missing Parts

Materials: Missing Parts worksheet (1 per child), pencils
Outcome: Visualize and draw parts that are missing from shapes and letters.

Ask children to describe the first picture on the worksheet (a five-pointed star). Then have them tell what is missing in the second picture, visualize it, and draw it (one point of the star). Let children complete the page independently.

Extra Help: To better visualize the missing part, "draw" the missing part with a finger before drawing it with a pencil.

Going Further: On the back of the page, draw the left half of each of these letters: O, H, V, M. With a different color, draw the missing halves.
Visualization Cards
Class Activity: My Eyes Can Visualize

- Circle
- Square
- Triangle
- Circle
- Arrow
- Quarter Circle
- Circle
- Square
Missing Parts
Worksheet

Given shapes for matching or completing:

- Star
- House
- Letter E
- Letter F
- Letter P