

# Visual Processing Disorders Clinic

(formerly known as  
Visual Stress Clinic)

**Alison Leak**  
**Head Orthoptist PHB**

# Referral process

- ▶ SENCO asked to review a child regarding difficulties with learning
- ▶ Child is suspected of having visual difficulties e.g. complaining of blur / page moving / visual disturbances or slow / inaccurate tracking noticed or previous use of an overlay
- ▶ **BEFORE** referring ask for the child to be seen by an Optician if they have not been in the past 6 months ( extended to 1year during the pandemic )
- ▶ If symptoms still present **and child aged 7yrs +** fully complete referral form with parent's consent
- ▶ Email referral to new patient appointments:
- ▶ [ulh-tr.NewAppointments@nhs.net](mailto:ulh-tr.NewAppointments@nhs.net) ( ask for a read receipt )

**Please note:**

**A child must initially be seen by an optician before a referral can be made. Minimum age for referral is 7 years.**

**NAME OF CHILD:** \_\_\_\_\_ **M/F** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**GP:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last sight test \_\_\_\_\_ **this must be within the last 6 months**

Does the child / young person display signs of the following :

Skipping words / lines ?	YES/ NO
Page blurring / words moving / visual disturbances?	YES/ NO
Finger tracking ( child aged > 8 yrs )?	YES/ NO
Slow reading speed?	YES/ NO
Previous use of overlay?	YES/ NO
Sequencing difficulties / confusing letter order in words / substituting Visually similar words?	YES/ NO
Any other information?	

Parents/ guardians are aware of this referral and agree to an assessment being carried out and the results being shared with relevant professionals.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/ Guardian  
\_\_\_\_\_ SENCO  
\_\_\_\_\_ Print SENCO Name      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Site to be seen ( *please delete* ) : Lincoln / Boston / Spalding / Grantham

**Please email form to: [ulh-tr.NewAppointments@nhs.net](mailto:ulh-tr.NewAppointments@nhs.net)**

On the first visit a full Orthoptic Assessment is carried out to rule out any ocular motility, refractive or accommodative cause for the difficulties

- ▶ If any defect is found the patient is asked to come back for a full Ophthalmological assessment.
- ▶ Any treatment required for VA / binocularity / focussing is then completed prior to a Visual Processing Assessment

# Visual Processing Assessment

## Tracking

- ▶ DEM Test
- ▶ Wilkins Rate of Reading

## Use of colour

- ▶ Selection of coloured overlay
- ▶ Wilkins Rate of Reading

# Developmental Eye Movement Test

2		5	9		4		3
4	5			2	7		8
3			5	7		4	9
8		7		9		5	7
3	7			1		4	5
6			1	4		6	2
9	3		7	2			6
7		2		4		6	3
6	3	2		9			1
7				4		6	5
5		3	7			4	8
4			5	2			1
7	9	3		9		1	7
1			4			6	2
2		5		7		4	3
3	7		5		9		6
							8

come see the play look up is cat not my and dog for you to  
the cat up dog and is play come you see for not to look my  
you for the and not see my play come is look dog cat to up  
dog to you and play cat up is my not come for the look see  
play come see cat not look dog is my up the for to and you  
to not cat for look is my and up come play you see the dog  
my play see to for you is the look up cat not dog come and  
look to for my come play the dog see you not cat up and is  
up come look for the not dog cat you to see is and my play  
is you dog for not cat my look come and up to play see the  
see the look dog and not is you come up to my for cat play  
not up play my is dog you come look for see and to the cat  
look up come and is my cat not dog you see for to play the  
my you is look the dog play see not come and to cat for up  
for the to and you cat is look up my not dog play see come  
you look see and play to the is cat not come for my up dog  
come not to play look the and dog see is cat up you for my  
and is for dog come see the cat up look you play my not to  
dog you cat to and play for not come up the see look my is  
the come to up cat my see dog you not look is play and for





# Treatment

## Tracking difficulties

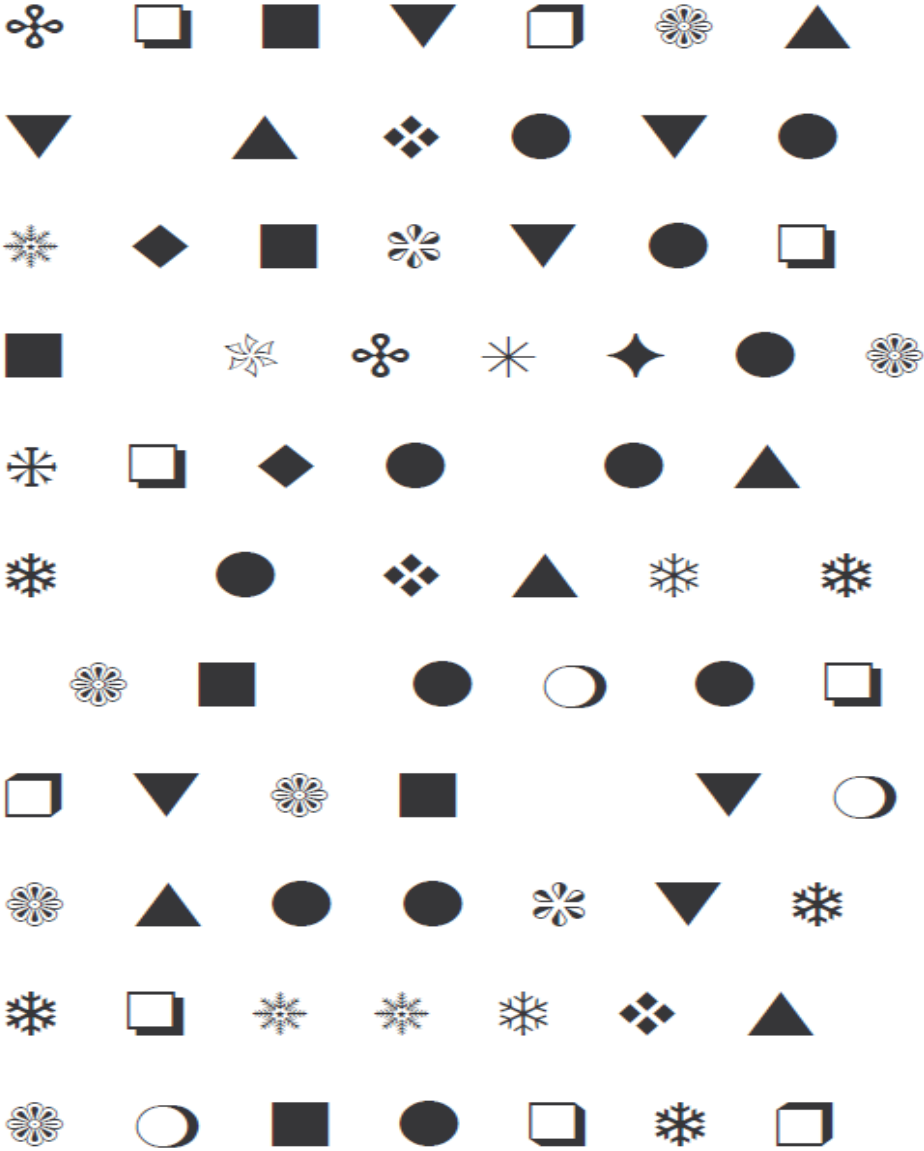
- ▶ Rainbow Reader Tracking Exercises Programme

## Need for Colour

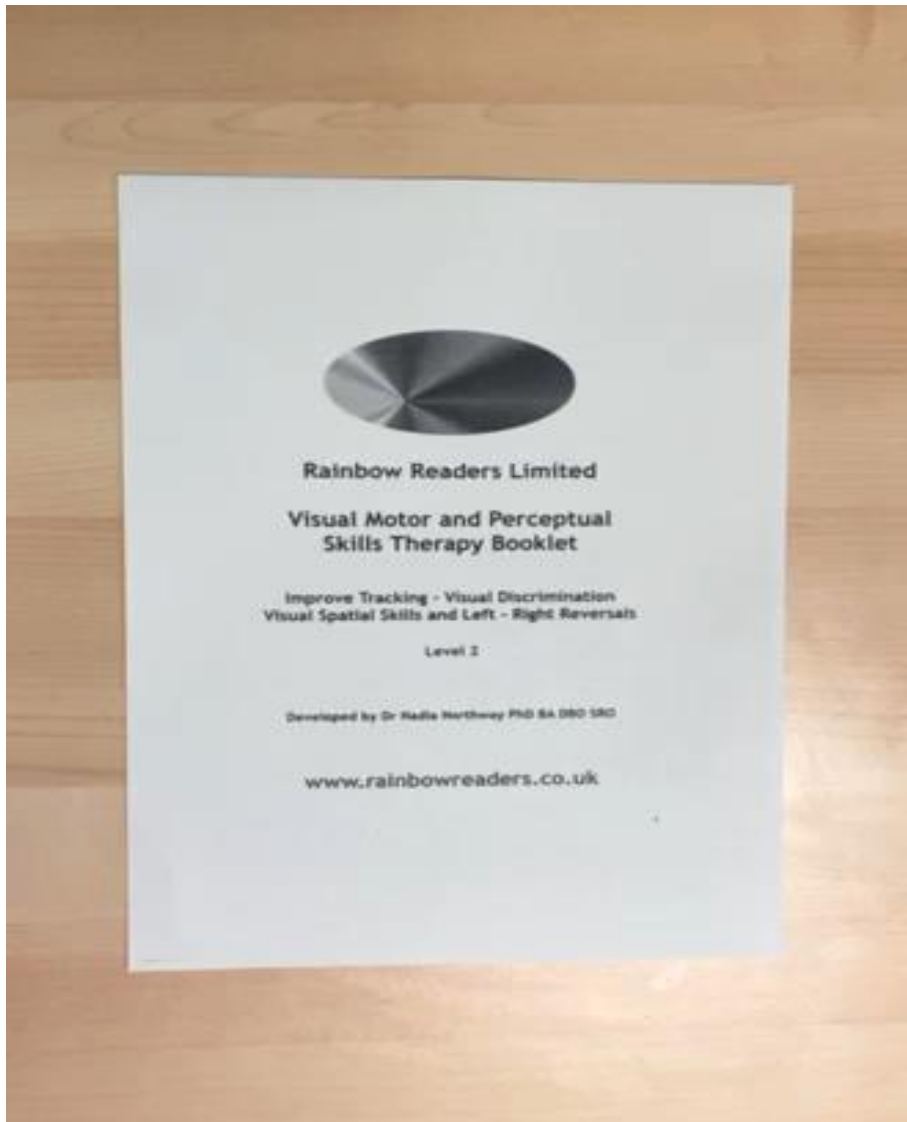
- ▶ Give appropriate overlay if 15% improvement in speed or significant improvement in tracking

If further Visual Perception difficulties are suspected a TVPS may be carried out and further Visual Perception Exercises issued as appropriate

# Rainbow Reader Tracking Exercises



# Rainbow Reader Video



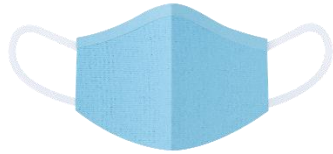
# Audit Results

Number of New Patients sent for in 2019

Pilgrim Team = 602

( covering Pilgrim, Spalding & Grantham )

Number of New Patients sent for in 2020



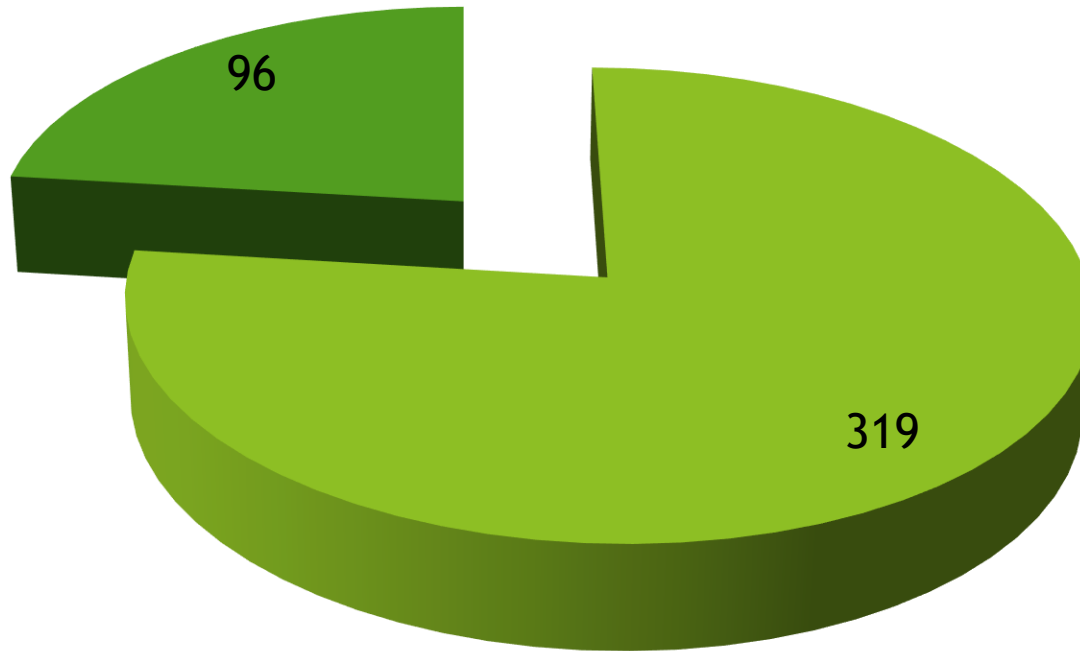
Number of New Patients sent for in 2021

Pilgrim Team = 342

Number of New Patients sent for in 2022

Pilgrim Team = 415

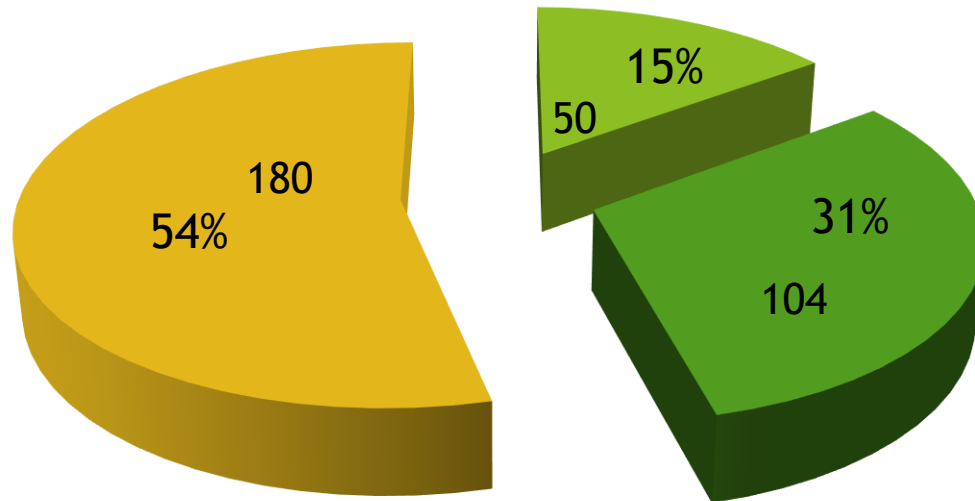
## Attendance at first appointment 2022



- Unable to attend on the day/  
Was not brought  
23% - increase from 15% )

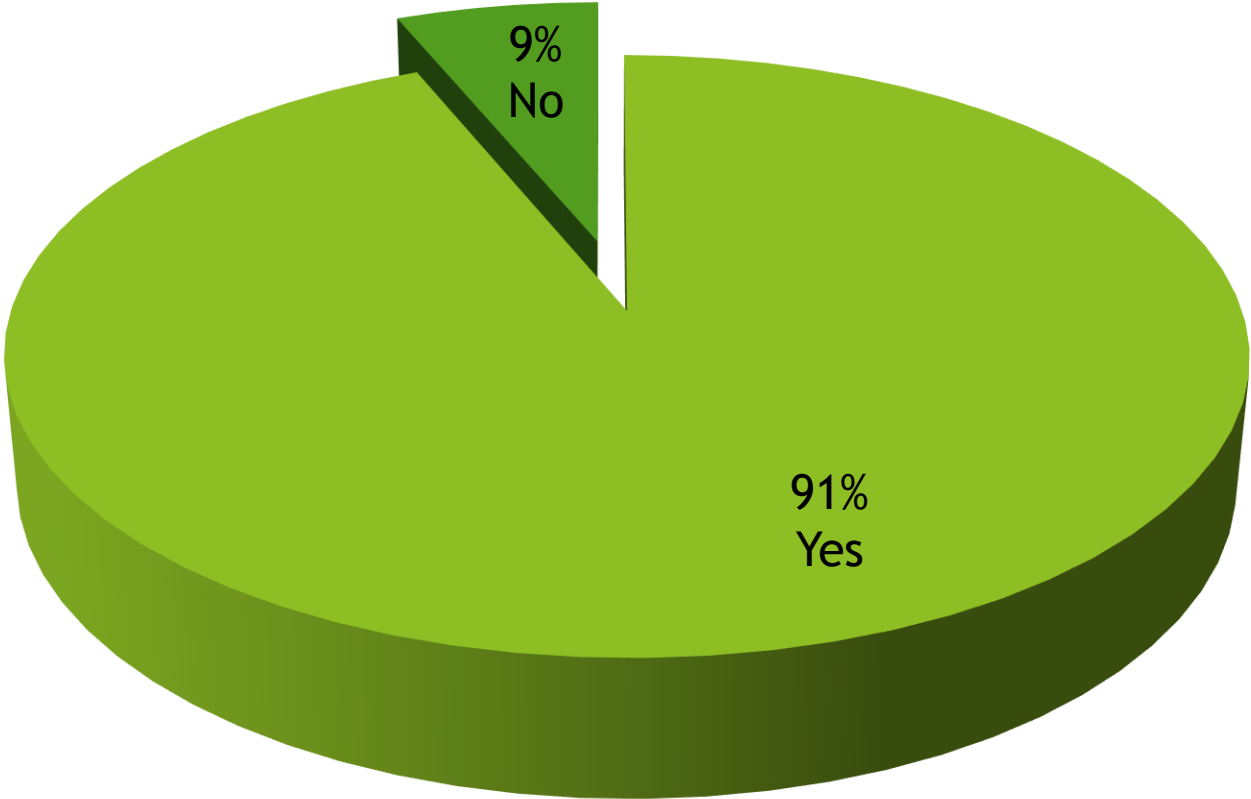
# Analysis of data 2022

334 patients



- Referred to Ophthalmology
- Colour indicated
- Tracking defect

# Referral fully completed



Visual  
Discrimination

Visual Memory

Visual Spatial  
Relationships

# TVPS

Test of visual perception skills

Visual Form  
Constancy

Visual  
Sequential  
Memory

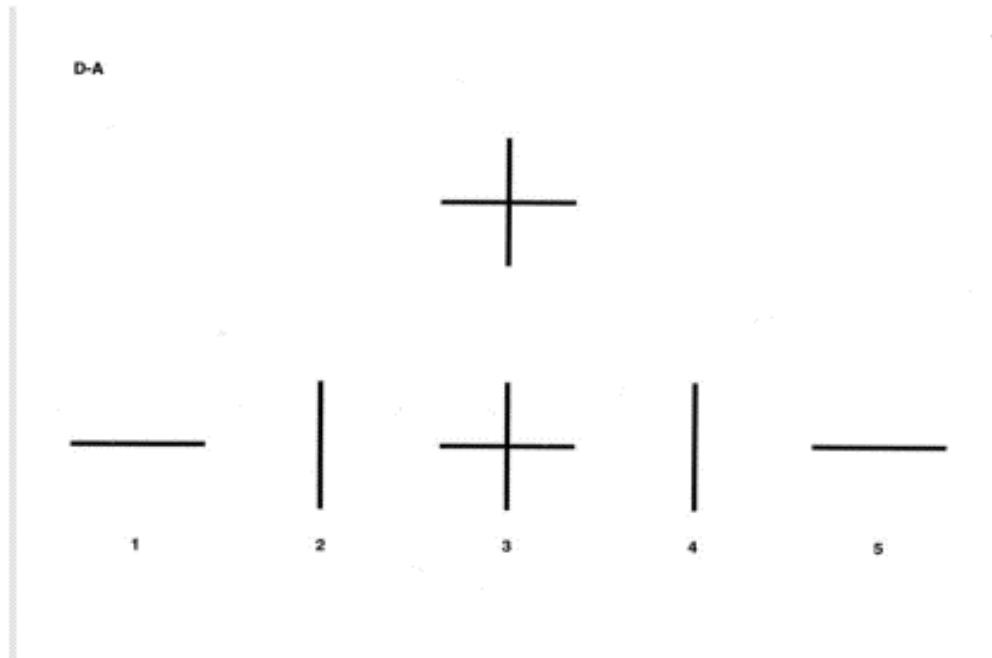
Visual Figure  
Ground

Visual Closure



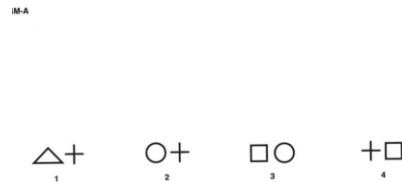
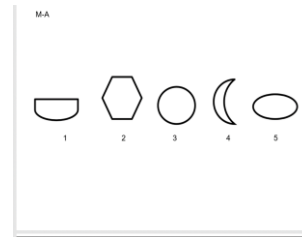
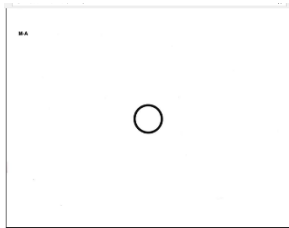
# Visual Discrimination

- ▶ Ability to find objects of the same shape
- ▶ “ can you find one that is exactly the same as this? “
- ▶ Problems with sight word vocabulary / recognising visually similar words



# Visual Memory & Sequential Memory

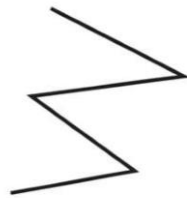
- ▶ Ability to remember a single or series of objects
- ▶ “which one did I show you?” / “ you need to remember not only the shapes but also what order they are in “
- ▶ **Problems developing sight word recognition & spelling**



# Visual Figure Ground

- ▶ Ability to distinguish an object from the background regardless of its presentation / orientation
- ▶ “can you find where this shape is hidden?”
- ▶ **Difficulty with smaller print/different fonts or cluttered / busy work sheets**

FC-A



1



2



3



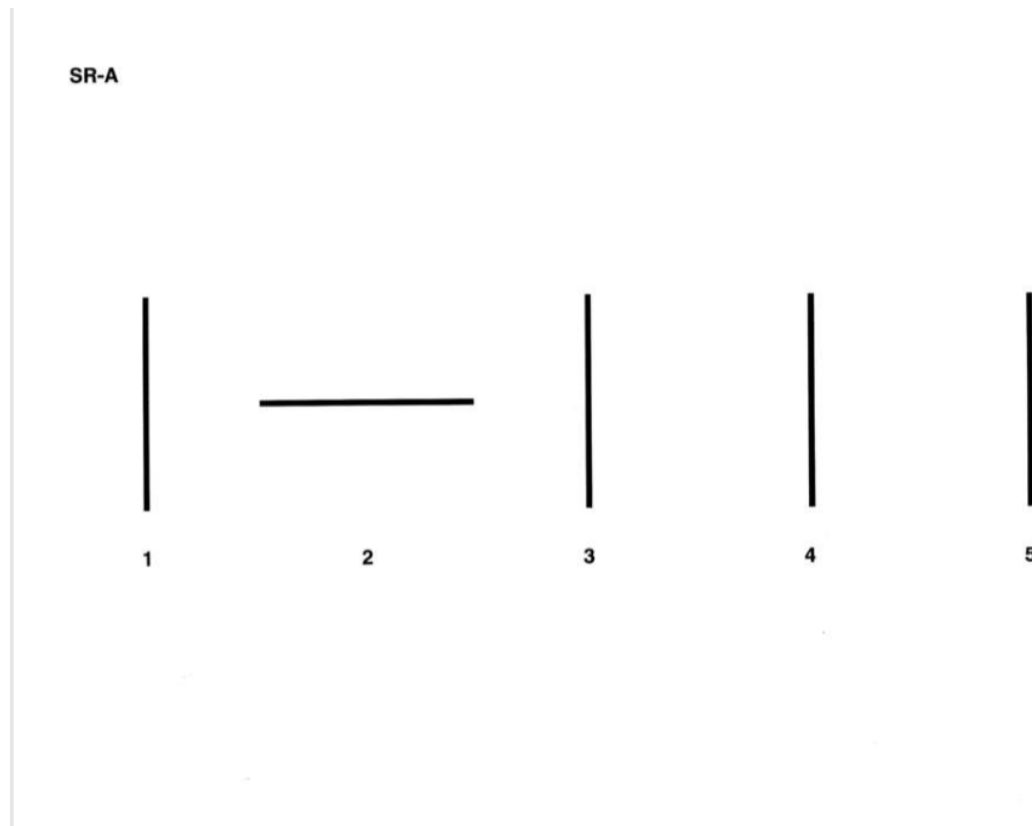
4



5

# Visual Spatial Relationships

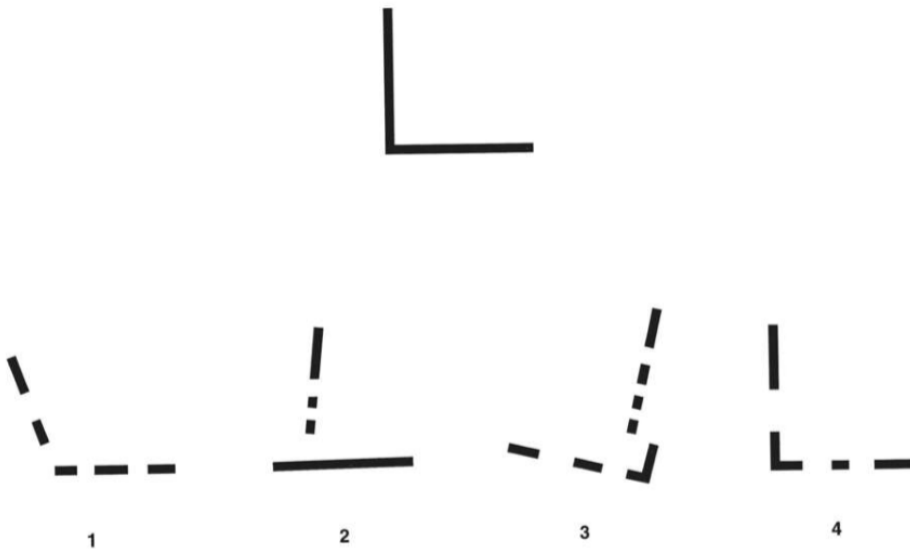
- ▶ Ability to determine the odd one out
- ▶ “ which one looks different to the rest?”
- ▶ **Problems with letter reversal, writing, spotting errors**



# Visual Closure

- ▶ Ability to interpret information when it is incomplete
- ▶ “ if you joined all the gaps what shape would it make?  
Remember you can't move the lines”
- ▶ **Problems with reading fluency and speed**

C-1



**Any Questions?**



[Alison.Leak@ulh.nhs.uk](mailto:Alison.Leak@ulh.nhs.uk)  
Tel 01205 446474