

Introduction

The diagnosis of left visual neglect or inattention has challenged clinicians for many years, in part because of the long-standing need for treatment and stimulus activities. As a speech-language pathologist, I have encountered this fascinating syndrome or disorder frequently while providing therapy to those recovering from cerebral vascular accidents and other neurological injuries.

Because of the lack of resources for this disorder, I spent a significant amount of time creating and preparing appropriate materials that were both interesting and engaging for this population. What I needed and consequently developed was an activity book that covered a wide range of skills. The *Left Visual Inattention Workbook* is designed to provide stimulating activities to use while training the client in the compensatory strategies necessary for functional visual scanning skills.

This workbook can be incorporated into a comprehensive rehabilitation program to reduce the effects of left visual inattention upon an individual's functional skills. It is a collection of visual activities containing enlarged print and graphics with simplified visual presentations to be used with both the reading and nonreading populations.

Activities range in difficulty from simple tasks for the severely impaired individuals learning to "search and see," to complex tasks for mildly impaired patients learning to compensate in functional reading tasks.

Various compensatory strategies such as margins and borders are noticeably missing from the pages. These were not incorporated so as not to limit the therapist's ability to choose individual treatment strategies or the client's ability to progress beyond the use of visual aids.

This workbook was designed to be used by a number of rehabilitation professionals that manage and treat left visual neglect or inattention. Because it contains "pen and paper" tasks, it may be most useful to speech-language pathologists, cognitive therapists, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, and neuropsychologists.