

Activities to Remediate Letter Reversals

Compiled by Ginger Grimsley, OTR/L

1. Ball games - Have child catch and throw with a particular hand, right only, then left only. Vary by using bean bags or koosh balls for greater sensory input. Increase difficulty by using commands; for example, catch the blue beanbag with your left hand.
2. Twister game - Available commercially.
3. Simon Says - Use left and right commands.
4. Painting - Do paintings using hands, feet, elbows, knees. Help child to identify left or right body part during activity.
5. Object game - Place a colored ruler or piece of tape on a table at the child's midline. Place objects to the left or right of this, one at a time, ask child to identify position. Vary by asking child to place objects on the left and right of the line. Increase difficulty by doing each game with child sitting on one side of the table and then the other.
6. Mirror game - Ask child to copy your actions while standing behind them, in front of a mirror. Use verbal directions to encourage reinforcement of left and right.
7. Line game - Tape a line to the floor or use a rope. Give child left/right commands for walking, jumping, hopping. For example, two jumps to the left, three jumps to the right.
8. Imagery - Help child develop visual images of correct letter presentation; for example, "looks like a person with a big belly=b;" "looks like a person with a big bottom=d."
9. Sandpaper letters - Have child trace sandpaper letters/numbers to reinforce formation.
10. Templates/stencils - Have child use stencils of letters and numbers.
11. Chalkboard games - Assist child with doing two to three repetitions of a single letter/number. Then ask the child to do one. Draw a line down the board at the child's midline. Give child commands to place X's on the left or right of the line. Increase difficulty by using a cross and giving commands of top left, bottom right, etc. Also, increase difficulty by speed of commands. Can also do this activity on paper or dry-erase board.