Rett U Webchat -CVI and Visual Processing

Information gathered from Susan Hanlin Norwell, Stephanie Ponte and handouts from Christine Roman Lantzy, PhD

Some notes and attachments from our webchat. Join us February 11, 2021 for part 2: Supports for CVI.

- There is some overlap between CVI and visual Processing but CVI shows up on an MRI.
- There is a range of CVI.
    - 0- no functional vision
    - 10-near typical vision
- Difficult to assess those with Rett and other complex needs due to Apraxia as well as communication issues.
- Some people with CVI are better at reading words rather than seeing pictures.
    - Those with complex communication needs may need assessment to see which is most appropriate for the child.
- Some things to note about CVI.
    - Things that move get attention.
    - Attracted to color-even if don't have a preferred color, vibrant and highly saturated colors alerts and maintains visual attention to target.
    - As eyes warm up, their range increases
    - Be aware of the complexity of visual array-the more complex, the harder it is for the person to interpret.
    - Be aware of the complexity of the sensory environment as well-in order to visually process, they need to not be trying to process other sensory input.
    - Work on snugging in their vision
    - Person's visual response may be slow or frequently delayed, be aware of wait time.
    - Person may exhibit unusual attraction or need for light.
    - May have difficulty with distance viewing.
    - May have atypical responses to innate reflexes that protect the eye-blinking and visual threat response.
    - Many are unable to look and reach at the same time.
    - May seem to prefer items they have viewed over and over again rather than novel inputs.

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