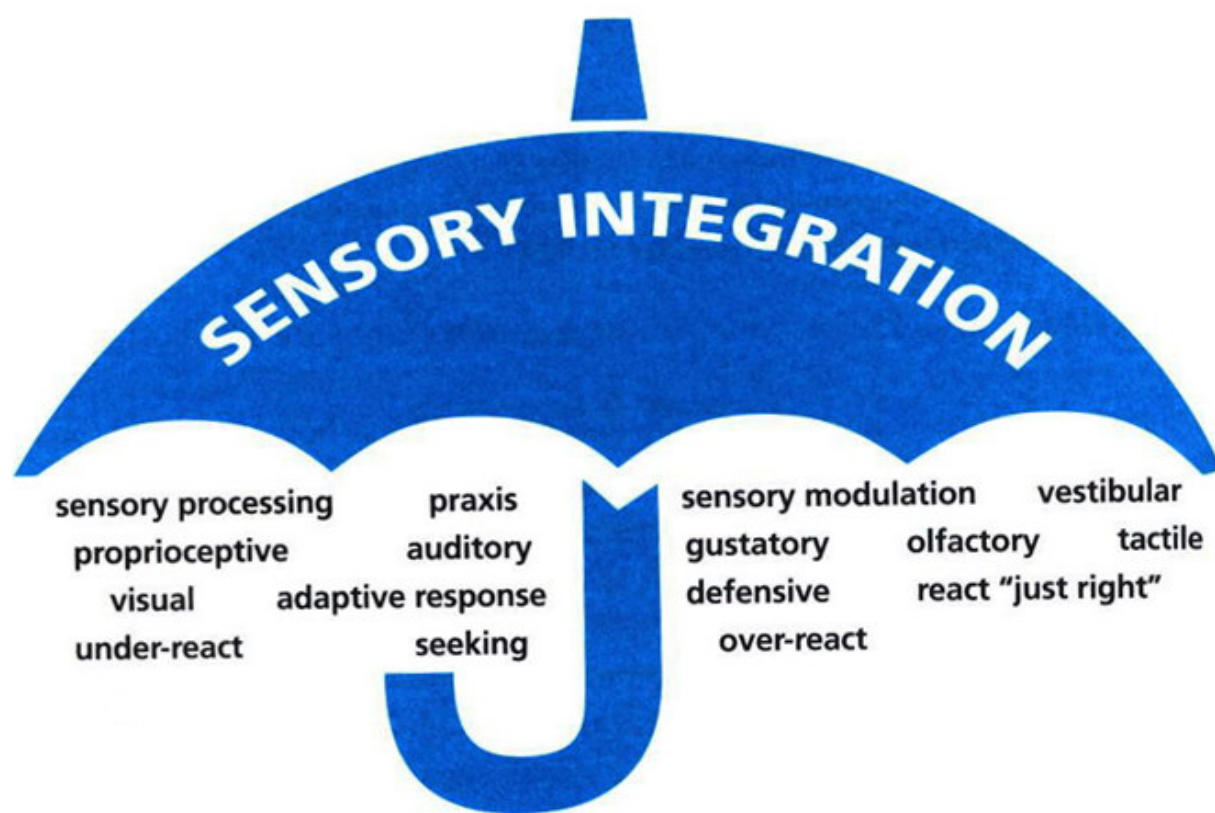


The Out-of-Sync Child: Understanding Sensory Processing Disorder



presented by:

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Sensory Processing is Important for these Everyday Functions



- Academic Skills
- Attention
- Auditory Discrimination
- Balance
- Bilateral Coordination
- Body Awareness
- Body Position
- Emotional Security
- Eye-foot Coordination
- Eye-hand Coordination
- Fine Motor Skills
- Flexibility
- Force, or Grading of Movement
- Gravitational Security
- Gross Motor Skills
- Hand Preference
- Healthy Relationships w/ Others
- Kinesthesia
- Muscle Tone
- Postural Stability
- Praxis (including Motor Planning)
- Self-comforting
- Self-esteem
- Self-protection
- Self-regulation
- Social Skills
- Speech & Language Skills
- Tactile Discrimination
- Visualization
- Visual Discrimination

Common Symptoms of Sensory Processing Disorder

Sensory processing disorder is suspected when the child exhibits one or more of these common symptoms with *frequency*, *intensity*, and *duration*. Frequency means several times a day. Intensity means that the child adamantly avoids sensory stimulation, or throws his/her whole body and soul into getting the stimulation s/he needs. Duration means that s/he persists in this unusual behavior for several minutes or longer.

The Oversensitive Child
(seeks less stimulation)

Sensations

The Undersensitive Child
(seeks more stimulation)

The child avoids touching or being touched by objects & people. S/he may react with a fight-or-flight response to getting dirty, to certain textures of clothing & food, and to another person's unexpected light touch.

Touch

The child may be unaware of pain, temperature, or how objects feel. S/he may wallow in the mud, paw through toys purposelessly, chew on inedible objects like shirt cuffs, rub against walls & furniture, and bump into people.

The child avoids moving or being unexpectedly moved. Insecure in regard to gravity, s/he may be anxious when tipped off balance. S/he may be earthbound & avoid running, climbing, sliding, or swinging. S/he may feel seasick in cars or elevators.

Movement

The child may crave fast & spinning movement, such as swinging, rocking, twirling, & riding merry-go-rounds – w/o getting dizzy. The child may move constantly, fidget, enjoy getting into upside-down positions & be a daredevil

The child may be rigid, tense, stiff, & uncoordinated. S/he may avoid playground activities that require good body awareness.

Body Position

The child may slump & slouch. Actions may be clumsy & inaccurate. S/he may bump into objects, stamp feet, & twiddle fingers.

The Oversensitive Child
(seeks less stimulation)

Sensations

The Undersensitive Child
(seeks more stimulation)

The child may become overexcited when there is too much to look at - words, toys, or other children. S/he may often cover their eyes, have poor eye contact, be inattentive when drawing or doing desk work, or overreact to bright light. S/he may be hyper-vigilant – on the alert & ever watchful

Sights

Although able to see, the child may touch everything to learn about it, because their vision is not sufficiently coordinated. S/he may miss important visual cues such as another person's facial expressions & gestures, as well as signposts & written directions.

The child may cover their ears to close out sounds or voices. S/he may complain about noises, such as vacuum cleaners & blenders, that don't bother others

Sounds

The child may ignore voices & have difficulty following verbal directions. S/he may not listen well to themselves & speak in a booming voice. S/he may want the TV & radio to be loud.

The child may object to odors, such as a ripe banana, that other children do not even notice.

Smells

The child may ignore unpleasant odors like dirty diapers. S/he may sniff food, people & objects.

The child may strongly object to certain textures & temperatures of food. S/he may often gag when they Eat.

Tastes

The child may lick or taste inedible objects, like playdough & toys. S/he may prefer very spicy or very hot foods.

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_____ 's Out-of-Sync Behavior

Behavior	Date & Time	Circumstances

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