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Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 3:37 PM
To: scott@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: Sensory Integration Disorder



Dear ,

Children who have been placed in a hospital-like setting early on in life or for a long period of time, in addition to children who have experienced trauma, may show signs of Sensory Integration Disorder, also known as Sensory Processing Disorder.

What is Sensory Integration Disorder?

Sensory Integration Disorder occurs when sensory signals are not organized into proper responses. Certain parts of the brain do not receive the information needed to process sensory information correctly. A child who has Sensory Integration Disorder may have a hard time acting upon the information that is received in their brain, which may lead to clumsiness, behavioral problems, depression, and anxiety. Sensory Integration disorder can impact a child's every day life, affecting how they interact with others, regulate their emotions, and learn in school.

What does Sensory Integration Disorder look like?

As with many developmental disorders, Sensory Integration Disorder is on a spectrum, with severity ranging from low to high. A child with Sensory Integration Disorder may over-react to touch, smell or taste, or they may under-react showing very little to no response. A child with Sensory Integration Disorder may hate loud sounds, bright lights, being touched, certain foods or textures. Other times, a child may not react at all to various stimuli, including the sensations of hot and cold.

For a more complete list of warning signs, please visit the Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) site and check out their [red flags list](#). You may also print off this [sensory checklist](#) from the book *Raising a Sensory Smart Child* by Lindsey Biel, OTR/L and Nancy Peske.

What are the causes of Sensory Integration Disorder?

At this time, there are no known causes. Many theories are being researched, including the theory that Sensory Integration Disorder may be inherited (genetic). Like with many other developmental disorders however, many factors may be at play including environmental factors.

How is Sensory Integration Disorder treated?

One of the most common treatments for Sensory Integration Disorder is Occupational Therapy (OT) with a Sensory Integration (SI) focus. Children learn how to detect, regulate, interpret, and execute responses to different sensations. This helps them move forward with everyday activities. You can learn more about Occupational Therapy as a treatment option on the SPD Foundation site, under their [treatment](#) section.

To learn more about other treatments for Sensory Integration Disorder, please see [Other Treatments](#) on the SPD Foundation site. You can also learn about common barriers to treatment [here](#).

Additional Information

For more information on Sensory Integration Disorder, please visit the following sites:

Huffington Post: [What is Sensory Processing Disorder? How to Diagnose Children with Sensory Issues](#)

[The Sensory Processing Disorder Resource Center](#)

[SPD Foundation](#)

[Sensory Smarts](#)

Rainbow Kids: [Sensory Integration Disorder in Adopted Children](#)

Resources

You may find the following resources helpful:

[*Raising a Sensory Smart Child: The Definitive Handbook for Helping Your Child with Sensory Processing Issues*](#) by Lindsey Biel and Nancy Peske

[Find a treatment center](#)

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