Sensory Processing Disorders

Identifying Challenges
Creating Support

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Learning Outcomes (Take Home)

1. Explain a sensory modulation disorder to a parent.

2. Identify behaviors that reflect a particular type of sensory modulation disorder

3. Create supportive strategies for sensory modulation disorder
THE WORLD IS A SENSORY PLACE!

Smooth... quiet ride

Smell is important if you want to get the girl
Sensory Interpretation is Unique..
Sensory Interpretation: Unique
Tactile: Light touch/pressure

Position Sense: Where body parts are in space

Movement Sense: Where in space you are moving
Sensory Systems

- Oral: flavor, texture, temperature
- Visual: Maps the space around us
- Auditory: Maps distance around us
- Smell: are primal and connected to emotions
Sensory Processing is..

Detection
Registration
Modulation
Response
Key Idea is:

ADAPTIVE RESPONSE
Sensory Processing Disorder...

**Difficulty** detecting, registering, interpreting, responding to internal and external sensory information with a maladaptive outcome...
SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDER

SENSORY MODULATION DISORDER

SENSORY BASED MOTOR DISORDER

SENSORY DISCRIMINATION DISORDER
Primary Idea of Sensory Modulation

Brain operates on thresholds

Low: Brain processes input quickly

High: Brain takes longer to process

SOLUTION IS.......REGULATION, AKA MODULATION
SENSORY MODULATION DISORDER
DUNN’s MODEL OF SENSORY MODULATION

Neurological Threshold

HIGH THRESHOLD

LOW THRESHOLD

Self Regulation

Passive  Active

Seeker
(UNDER Responsive)

Avoider
(OVER Responsive)

SENSORY SEEKER

Craves stimulation
Never enough
SEEKERS WANT MORE:

- Flavor
- Color
- Volume
- Motion
- Texture....

Recognize SEEKERS by...

- Stares at bright lights and moving objects
- Walks around barefoot..alot
- Moves while sitting
- Holds objects close to view
- Likes loud toys; high pitched noises
- Talks loudly
- Impulsive; constant motion
- Fidgety

SENSORY AVOIDERS/OVER-RESPONDERS

"THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS NO YUCKY STUFF."
SENSORY AVOIDERS

More of the same...and nothing else
Wants control of amount of sensory info
But...don’t want much of it
Looks for time to be alone
Experiences discomfort quickly

Recognize AVOIDERS By..

- Refuses to play if too many kids and noise
- Avoids eye contact
- Emotional when hears sudden noise
- Emotional when noise level increases
- Responds aggressively to tactile stimulation
- Overreacts to minor bumps/bruises
- Complains of clothes being “itchy” or “wet”
SENSORY UNDER-RESPONDERS

Reacts slowly to sensory input
High pain tolerance
“in own little world”
Withdrawn
Recognize UNDER RESPONDERS by

- Doesn’t like new experiences
- Clumsy
- Tends to sit and stand vs moving about
- Appears “tired” or “lazy”
- Doesn’t like others to move body
What’s Your Pattern?

Definitely one pattern in all situations?
Why Do We Care About SP Issues?

IF adaptive: can figure it out and respond...

People with SPD cannot do so...without support
Consider....

- 2 y.o. who has low threshold for food flavor and texture......

- 5 y/o, first day in K, having spent life at home in a quiet, predictive, calm surrounding......

- YOU...or our clients...in varied situations that we avoid/seek and it’s the opposite of someone live with, work with, play with...
KEY IDEA:
A Basic Premise of Intervention

We are challenged differently by input

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Touch</th>
<th>Visual</th>
<th>Auditory</th>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>Taste</th>
<th>Smell</th>
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Thus, we need unique strategies to adapt

See Handout
Begin with Sensory Analysis

S.T. E. P

I’ve got a S. E. C. R. E. T

See Handout
Immediate Next Steps...

- Obtain Sensory Integration: A Guide for Preschool Teachers
- Obtain Dunn’s: Living Sensationally
- Obtain Lucy Miller’s: Sensational Kids
- Bookmark SPD Network Website:  
- Ben Atchison’s SPD Blog  
  – [http://sensoryprocessingdisorders.blogspot.com](http://sensoryprocessingdisorders.blogspot.com)
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