

Let's Talk About...

Sensory integration dysfunction

Sensory integration dysfunction is when your child can't manage the information coming in through their senses. It is also called a sensory processing disorder. Children with sensory integration dysfunction may have trouble learning, playing, meeting or talking with others, and doing daily activities.

What are the signs of sensory integration dysfunction?

If your child has sensory integration dysfunction, they may:

- Be unusually sensitive to clothing or getting dressed
- Be unusually uncomfortable with diaper changes and washing hair, bathing, or brushing teeth
- Dislike and avoid touching sand, dirt, finger paints, or glue
- Be unusually sensitive to tastes or smells
- Avoid climbing, swinging, sliding, and taking escalators, elevators, or stairs
- Be unusually sensitive to loud sounds or surroundings
- Have trouble with hand coordination or handwriting
- Have trouble with movement or coordination
- Have trouble imitating others or playing a variety of games
- Have trouble participating in team sports
- Not notice pain and temperature
- Be an unusually picky eater
- Be an unusually sloppy eater



- Chews or eats non-food objects
- Have an unusual need for movement (fidgeting, rocking, or spinning)
- Seem clumsy or accident-prone

How do I know if my child has sensory integration dysfunction?

An occupational therapist can meet your child and see if they have sensory integration dysfunction. This meeting may include a parent interview, sensory checklists, and standardized testing.

