### 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.



# How is sensory integration dysfunction treated?

You and your child's occupational therapist will create a sensory treatment plan. Together you will try to meet your child's goals with therapy, parent education, and home activities. The occupational therapist will help your child in a special sensory-rich play environment, with activities your child enjoys.

#### What if I have questions?

If you think your child has symptoms of sensory integration dysfunction, talk to your child's primary healthcare provider.

Notes	

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