

# Let's Talk About...

## Sensory Integration Dysfunction

Sensory integration dysfunction is when a child is not able to manage the information coming in through his senses. This may interfere with learning, playing, social interaction, and completing daily activities of life.

### What does sensory integration dysfunction look like?

- Unusual sensitivity to clothing or getting dressed
- Unusual discomfort with hair washing, bathing, brushing teeth, or diaper changes
- Dislikes or avoids contact with sand, dirt, finger paints, or glue
- Unusual sensitivity to tastes or smells
- Avoids climbing, swinging, sliding, escalators, elevators, or stairs
- Unusual sensitivity to louder sounds or environments
- Hand coordination or handwriting challenges
- Movement or coordination challenges
- Motor planning challenges such as difficulty with imitation, variety of play, or participation in team sports
- Does not notice pain and temperature
- Unusually picky eater
- Unusually sloppy eater or overstuffing mouth
- Chews or eats non-food objects
- Unusual need for movement (e.g. fidgets, rocks, and spins)
- Seems clumsy, falls often, or "accident-prone"

### How can my child be evaluated for sensory integration dysfunction?

Your child can be evaluated for sensory integration with an occupational therapy evaluation. This may include a parent interview, sensory checklists, and standardized testing.

### How is sensory integration dysfunction treated?

You and your child's occupational therapist will develop a sensory treatment plan. Together you will work towards your child's goals with therapy, parent education, and home activities. An occupational therapist will provide therapy in a special sensory-rich therapy play environment, with activities that are meaningful to your child.

### Who do I call if I have questions?

If you think your child may have a sensory integration difficulty, discuss this with your primary care doctor. You can also call for an appointment at one of Intermountain Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation sites:

**Cache Kids Pediatric Rehab:** 435.716.6440

**Dixie Regional Medical Center:** 435.251.2250

**Orem Community Hospital Pediatric:**  
801.714.3505

**PCH Rehab Bountiful:** 801.292.8665

**PCH Rehab Ogden:** 801.387.2080

**PCH Rehab Sandy:** 801.571.3081

**PCH Rehab Taylorsville:** 801.840.4360