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 overstuffs 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

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Pediatric Education Services, 801.662.3500 | Rev. 10/14, LTA520680666 | *Available in Spanish*