Collaborating on Early Identification of Children with Sensory Integration Issues & Mental Health Concerns - Observe, Advocate, & Minimize Impact

Who are we?
Our mission is to support children and youth with complex mental health or developmental challenges in reaching their full potential and enhancing their quality of life.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
• What is Sensory Integration Dysfunction?
• Sensory Systems (5 + 2)
• Summary of retrospective chart review findings
• What are the signs & symptoms commonly seen in children with mental health concerns?
• What does therapy look like?
• Take away tools and resources
CHILD & PARENT RESOURCE INSTITUTE

SENSORY SYSTEMS

- Visual
- Auditory
- Gustatory (taste)
- Olfactory (smell)

(‘THE SENSORY GANG - Myles, Cook et al 2000)

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SENSORY SYSTEMS

- Tactile (touch)
- Vestibular (movement sense)
- Proprioception (body awareness)


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**Clinical Presentation**

**Behavioral Issues**
- Bilateral Coordination
- Over Responsiveness to Touch
- Praxis
- Postural Control

**DemoGraphics of the Sample**

- 135 clients admitted over 3 calendar years 2010 – 2013
- 2 female / 133 male
- 83 children met criteria for chart review (61 % of those admitted)
- N=30 (agreed to participate in retrospective chart review)
- Within this group all were male
- Age range of sample 6.6 years to 12.5 years
- Mean Age (Standard Deviation) 9.83 years (1.47)
Children & Parent Resource Institute

**DSM - IV Diagnoses**

- ADHD Combined Type: 56.7%
- Anxiety Disorder (NOS): 23.3%
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder: 12.5%
- Tourette Syndrome: 9.4%
- Expressive Language Disorder: 9.4%
- Learning Disorder (NOS): 9.4%
- Mood Disorder (NOS): 9.4%

**Primary Caregiver Priority Concerns**

- Physical Aggression: 60.6%
- Verbal Aggression: 46.6%
- Property Destruction: 40.6%
- Elopement: 37.5%
- Self-Injurious Behavior: 25.0%
- Safety: 15.6%
- Theft: 15.6%
- Anxiety: 12.5%
- Sexualized Behaviors: 9.4%
- Suicidal Ideation: 9.4%

**Scores on the Sensory Processing Measure Indicating Some Problems or Definite Dysfunction**

- Planning & Ideas: 60.7%
- Balance: 60.7%
- Body Awareness: 60.7%
- Touch: 50.0%
- Hearing: 40.0%
- Vision: 30.0%
- Social: 20.0%
- Total SPM Score: 100.0%
Sensory Modulation Issues Identified During OT Evaluation

- Overall: 84.4% of sample
- Auditory Sensitivity: 75%
- Tactile Defensiveness: 56.3%
- Intolerance to Movement: 40.6%

Sensorimotor Integration Issues Identified During OT Evaluation

- Overall: 50% of sample
- Postural Control: 37.5%
- Praxis: 43.8%

Relational Condition & Sensory Processing Concerns

ADHD Combined Type: 94.1%
OCD: 85.7%
Anxiety: 81.8%
ADHD Inattentive Type: 52.9%
OCD: 42.9%
Anxiety: 54.5%
IMPACT OF THESE FINDINGS ON OUR CLINICAL PRACTICE

• Necessity for early identification of sensory issues in children with significant behavioral concerns
• Importance of OT assessment for children with complex mental health & behavioral challenges
• Increased awareness across all disciplines that underlying sensory issues may be contributing to behavioral presentations
• Support & encouragement for use of more specific OT assessments emphasizing sensory functioning (e.g. Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests SIPT)
• Significance of results to provision of services for clients & families

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Does my client have sensory issues?

Pathways.org Resources

• Printable Developmental Milestone Checklists
• Printable Sensory Motor Checklists
• Printable Brochures (e.g. Play; Tummy Time; Intro to Sensory Integration)
• Online Videos
Providers of Occupational Therapy Service

- Infant Development Services
- Children’s Treatment Centers
- School Health Support Services (consultative for school based issues)
- Children’s Mental Health Services (may have occupational therapy services)
- Tertiary Level Mental Health & Developmental Service Provider (e.g. Child & Parent Resource Institute)
- Private Practice Occupational Therapy

Direct versus Consultative Occupational Therapy

Direct Therapy One-on-One (e.g. sensory rich therapy space)
School & Home Consultation (e.g. sensory diet)
Environmental Modification

VIDEO
Does My Child Have A Sensory Issue?
Sensory Strategies for Self Regulation

- Sensory Based Cognitive Strategies e.g. Alert Program
- Preventative Sensory Diet Activities
- Equipment to help maintain optimal level of alertness

HEAVY WORK STRATEGIES

- Household Activities
- School Helper
- Leisure
- Community

Exploratory Activities

- Videos
- Equipment
- Books
- Banking Sensory Points
- Adult Checklist
REFERENCES

- Take Five! Staying Alert at Home and School, Mary Sue Williams, Sherry Shellenberger (2001)
- Sensory Integration, Answers for Teachers, Gina G. Coleman, Zoe Mailoux, Susanne Smith Roley (2006)
- The Out-of-Sync Child Has Fun, Activities for Kids with Sensory Integration Dysfunction, Carol Kranowitz (2003)
- The Sensory Team Handbook, Nancy Mucklow (2009)