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Sensory Processing

Parent Carer Guide to Sensory Processing

Your Child, Your Choice

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Sensory Processing Differences

Sensory processing refers to the way our nervous system receives, organises, and interprets sensory information from our environment and our own bodies. This information comes from our senses: sight, sound, touch, taste, smell, movement (vestibular), and body awareness (proprioception).



Here's a breakdown of what sensory processing involves:

Sensory Input:

- Our senses constantly gather information from the world around us.
- This input travels through our nervous system to the brain.

Sensory Modulation:

- The brain processes and organises this sensory information.
- It regulates the intensity and type of sensory input we respond to.
- This process is called sensory modulation.

Sensory Integration:

- The brain integrates the information from different senses to create a cohesive understanding of our environment and our own bodies.
- This allows us to respond appropriately to different situations.

Impact of Sensory Processing Differences:

Sensory processing differences can affect a person's ability to:

- Regulate their emotions and behaviour.
- Learn and participate in daily activities.
- Socialise and interact with others.
- Cope with stress and anxiety.

Some individuals have difficulty processing sensory information, which can lead to sensory processing differences or sensory processing disorder (SPD).

These differences can manifest in various ways, including:

- Sensory Sensitivity: Being overly sensitive to certain sensory input, such as loud noises, bright lights, or certain textures.
- Sensory Seeking: Craving or seeking out intense sensory experiences, such as spinning, jumping, or deep pressure.
- Sensory Avoidance: Avoiding or withdrawing from certain sensory input that is perceived as overwhelming or unpleasant.
- Sensory Discrimination: Difficulty distinguishing between different sensory inputs, such as similar sounds or textures.

Importance of Understanding Sensory Processing:

- Understanding sensory processing can help us create supportive and inclusive environments for individuals with sensory processing differences.
- It can also help us develop strategies to manage sensory sensitivities and promote sensory integration.
 - In the context of children with additional needs, sensory processing differences are quite common.

Understanding how a child processes sensory information is crucial for providing appropriate support and interventions.

For more support covering Sensory Processing, read here:

