

Sensory Integration Dysfunction

also known as

Sensory Integration Disorder



Sensory Integration Dysfunction (SID, also called Sensory Processing Disorder or Regulatory-Sensory Processing Disorder (Stanley Greenspan)) is a neurological disorder causing difficulties with *processing information* from the five senses (*vision, auditory, touch, olifactory, and taste*), as well as the sense of movement (*vestibular system*), and/or the positional sense (*proprioception*) (Wikipedia).

SID is its own diagnosis, but it can be linked to other neurological conditions including autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit disorder, dyslexia, Developmental Dyspraxia, Tourette syndrome, multiple sclerosis, and speech delays, among many others (Wikipedia).

For children with Sensory Integration Disorder, sensory information is **sensed**, (taken in) but **perceived** (processed) differently and may cause them to over or under react to sensory stimulation. This can result in difficulties in the child's development and behaviour.

For Example:

Sense	What is Affected	Example of Response
Tactile	Skin receptors affecting touch, pressure, temperature, pain and movement of the hair follicles of the skin	<i>Over-reaction:</i> pulls away from stimulus, may not like to hold onto tools etc. does not like certain clothing <i>Under-reaction:</i> does not feel pain, cold etc. Can appear rough or too 'hard' with kids/equipment
Vision	Includes sight and the ability to correctly perceive, discriminate, process and respond to what one sees	<i>Over-reaction:</i> does not like bright lights, turns away from visual stimulation, has difficulty 'looking' at an object/person etc. <i>Under-reaction:</i> Looks, but does not see, stares at bright lights etc.

<p>Oral/taste</p> 	<p>Ability to correctly perceive, discriminate, process and respond to input within the mouth</p>	<p><i>Over-reaction:</i> 'picky eater', very sensitive to tastes and temperature in the mouth, often limited food intake <i>Under-reaction:</i> excessive 'mouthing' of objects, difficulty with discriminating temperatures of foods etc. May 'chew or bite' inside the mouth</p>
<p>Auditory</p>	<p>Ability to correctly perceive, discriminate, process and respond to sounds</p>	<p><i>Over-reaction:</i> shies away from loud noises, will 'hear' white noise (e.g. lights, etc.) to the point of distraction, may cover ears and 'tune out' <i>Under-reaction:</i> does not process sounds, may have difficulty discriminating what is said, may be overly loud or like loud input</p>
<p>Olfactory</p>	<p>Ability to correctly perceive, discriminate, process and respond to different odors</p>	<p><i>Over-reaction:</i> May withdraw from activities with strong odours, e.g. art (painting), may not like certain foods (picky eating); or aversive to areas that elicit strong oliforous reaction (e.g. gym, woodworking class) <i>Under-reaction:</i> may have little interest in eating due to lack of smell. Not aware of strong odours, may affect self care. Can be dangerous, e.g. the student may have difficulty smelling/identifying the smell of smoke</p>
<p>Proprioception</p> 	<p>Sense of "position"; input from the muscles and joints about body position, weight, pressure, stretch, movement and changes in position</p>	<p><i>Over-reaction:</i> May not like light touch, movement of parts of the body, avoidance of stretch/exercise routines. May not liked to be touched. <i>Under-reaction:</i> Likes excessive pressure, exaggerated input to the joints, may need to move more than others, may be fidgety at desk jobs or when seated for short periods of time</p>
<p>Vestibular</p>	<p>Movement, sense from the inner ear about equilibrium</p>	<p><i>Over-reaction:</i> 'frozen' child, does not like any unpredictable sudden movement, does not like gym, fast activities <i>Under-reaction:</i> constantly moving, runs into things etc. Falls often</p>