



What is Sensory Integration?

An important part of a child's development is the ability to organize information coming from the senses such as smell, taste, touch, sight, hearing, and movement. We cannot see the brain organizing these sensations from the eyes, ears, or body, but we can see how it influences the way a child develops, learns, and behaves.

Sometimes information from the senses is not received and organized correctly by a child's nervous system, causing developmental delays, fine and/or gross motor delays, social issues, speech and language processing difficulties, and/or behavioral issues. Sensory Integration Dysfunction can range from mild to severe, and children may exhibit different symptoms. Some signs of possible Sensory Integration Dysfunction are: picky eating, sensitivity to touch, textures, or sound, short attention span, poor social interactions, hitting or pushing others, difficulty following directions or understanding sequences of directions, fearfulness of movement or seeking out excess movement, decrease willingness to try new things, clumsiness, difficulty using utensils (fork, spoon, pencil), poor handwriting, delays in establishing hand dominance, or poor sleep patterns.

An Occupational Therapist (OT) performs therapy with a sensory-integrative approach, which takes place in a sensory-rich gym environment where the therapist guides the child through activities that are fun, yet structured, so the child is constantly challenged but always successful. This helps improve neurological function, promotes learning, play, and social skills.

This approach is based on the research and theoretical principles of Dr. A. Jean Ayres among others in the field of occupational therapy and neurology. With adaptations, therapeutic intervention, and motivation of the child, cognitive skills, behavioral control, social maturity, and motor skills emerge in a more naturally developing sequence. Occupational therapy intervention helps children reach their greatest potential for development and learning so that a child can be successful in all they do.

If you have concerns about a child who may be experiencing difficulties in the above-mentioned areas, contact our office at 770-345-2804 for more information or to set up an appointment for an evaluation. Occupational therapy will help a child overcome these challenges and function better in life.

IN HARMONY PEDIATRIC THERAPY
4280 HICKORY FLAT HIGHWAY, SUITE 108
CANTON, GA 30115
PHONE (770) 345-2804 FAX (770) 783-5049
www.inharmoniopediatrictherapy.com