Welcome to SPN104

This course introduces early childhood professionals to sensory processing, the complex process by which the brain interprets sensory information, and a basic examination of sensory processing disorders. Course content includes helpful teaching practices and strategies for meeting the needs of all learners.

Course Objectives:

By taking notes on the handout and successfully answering assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives as a result of taking this course:

- Define proprioceptive, vestibular, and interoceptive senses
- Identify characteristics of Sensory Processing Disorders
- Differentiate between sensory-seeking and sensory-avoidant behaviors
- Identify classroom strategies and therapeutic approaches to meet the needs of different children

References:


Overview of How Our Senses Work
Our Many Senses

The External Senses

Internal Senses

*Proprioceptive sense:*

*Vestibular sense:*

*Interoceptive sense:*

Sensory Processing Disorders
Sensory integration:

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD):

Types of Sensory Processing Disorders

There is a threshold or tolerance level that children have for certain types of sensory stimuli.

- A child with a very low threshold
- A child with a very high threshold

Some children may be sensory seekers, meaning that they crave more sensory information than typical children. Other children may be sensory avoiders, meaning that they act to escape from sensory input.

Sensory seekers may

Sensory avoiders will

Visual Processing

Sensory Seeking

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Sensory Avoidant

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Auditory Processing (Hearing)

Sensory Seeking

Sensory Avoidant

Gustatory Processing (Taste)

Sensory Seeking

Sensory Avoidant

Olfactory Processing (Smell)

Sensory Seeking
Sensory Avoidant

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Tactile Processing (Touch)

Sensory Seeking

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Sensory Avoidant

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Proprioceptive Processing

Sensory Seeking

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Sensory Avoidant

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Vestibular Processing

Sensory Seeking
Sensory Avoidant

Interoceptive Processing

Sensory Seeking

Sensory Avoidant

Classroom Strategies

Create a Sensory Diet

Important Fact

*It is possible to have a tactile sensory seeker and a tactile sensory avoider in the same room at the same time.*

*It is a good practice to*
Visual Processing

Sensory Seeking Strategies:

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Sensory Avoidant Strategies:

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Auditory Processing (Hearing)

Sensory Seeking Strategies:

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Sensory Avoidant Strategies:

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Gustatory Processing (Taste)

Sensory Seeking Strategies:

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Sensory Avoidant Strategies:

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Olfactory Processing (Smell)

Sensory Seeking Strategies:

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Sensory Avoidant Strategies:

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Tactile Processing (Touch)

Sensory Seeking Strategies:

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Sensory Avoidant Strategies:

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Proprioceptive Processing

Sensory Seeking Strategies:

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Sensory Avoidant Strategies:

Vestibular Processing

Sensory Seeking Strategies:

Sensory Avoidant Strategies:

Interoceptive Processing

Sensory Seeking Strategies:

Sensory Avoidant Strategies: