

RED FLAGS for SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDER*

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) can affect one sense or multiple senses. Symptoms vary for individual children who have SPD. **Consider the child's behavior during the past six months. If you recognize several symptoms in a child, screening for SPD may be warranted.**

Infants and Toddlers

- Problems sucking a bottle
- Problems eating
- Problems sleeping
- Cannot calm self
- Cannot get on a regular schedule
- Irritable when being dressed; uncomfortable in clothes
- Rarely plays with toys
- Resists cuddling; arches away when held
- Floppy or stiff body
- Seems to have motor delays compared to same-age children
- Objects to being on his/her back
- Fussy when placed on tummy
- Has a tendency to break toys
- Passive; does not actively explore toys, environments

Pre-Schoolers

- Pulls away from touch; doesn't like water play
- Disorganized when the environment is noisy
- Problems in a group if there are many other people
- Difficulty making friends
- Difficulty taking turns
- Delayed speech or language (words, sentences)
- Difficulty dressing, eating, sleeping, and/or toilet training
- Clumsy; poor large motor skills, e.g., running, climbing, etc.
- Does not like or has trouble with small motor skills, e.g., building with blocks, etc.
- Does not like puzzles or other visual motor activities, e.g., coloring or copying shapes
- Weak, lethargic; no "get up and go"
- In constant motion; in everyone else's face and space
- Frequent or long temper tantrums or meltdowns
- Unintentionally aggressive; can't judge his/her own strength
- Only plays with toys or objects for a few minutes and then is on to something new
- Starts playing with one thing and gets "stuck"; doesn't move on to something else

RED FLAGS for PROBLEM FEEDING**

Consider the child's feeding during the past six months. If you recognize several symptoms in a child, screening for problem feeding may be warranted.

- Poor weight gain (e.g., percentiles falling) or weight loss
- Choking, gagging, or coughing during meals
- Problems with vomiting while trying to eat or drink
- More than one incident of nasal reflux
- A traumatic choking incident
- Unable to transition to baby food purees by 10 months of age
- Unable to accept any table food solids by 12 months of age
- Unable to transition from breast/bottle to a cup by 16 months of age if parents want this

- _____ Is not weaned off baby foods by 16 months of age
- _____ Avoids all foods in specific texture or food group
- _____ Eats less than 20 foods by age two years
- _____ Cries and/or arches away at most meals
- _____ Mealtime is a constant battle

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