

Emerge



A Child's Place

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Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy

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Serving children from birth
to 14 years old

Using therapy to improve
conditions such as:

Delayed Speech
Dyspraxia
Speech Impairments
Non-communicative Speech
Oral/Verbal Apraxia
Language Disorders
Feeding Difficulties
Autism/Asperger's/PDD
Developmental Delay
Cerebral Palsy
Sensory Integration
Disorders
Sensory Modulation
Disorders
Handwriting Impairments
Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent
Provider

www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com

Rethinking the Behavioral Challenges of Infants



Bonnie Hacker, OT
Founder / Director

Parents say "Finally! A diagnosis - a thorough explanation - a name." Their children's behavior seemed impossible to understand, correct, or endure. When parents of children with sensory processing disorder (SPD) first learn about SPD, their reaction usually comes as an "Aha!" moment, and a "Why didn't someone tell me about this years ago?" Many parents of children with SPD live with the frustration of knowing that something is not right, of not being able to fix it, of being accused of bad parenting, and of being exhausted by their child's behavior. By knowing how to recognize and improve sensory processing disorders, you can improve the lives of children and improve family lives.

Sensory processing disorder (also known as sensory integration dysfunction) is a condition wherein neurologic pathways in the brain prevent individuals from processing sensory input normally. Every minute, we experience and process a barrage of sensory input from touch, sight, sound, taste, and movement. Disorders in processing this input can cause overreactions, under-reactions, and a variety of behavioral consequences. Left unaddressed, SPD often results in problems with social and family relationships, regulating emotions, self-esteem, learning, and general health. SPD shows signs even in infants and toddlers. Here are some signs of a possible sensory processing disorder.

- Overly sensitive/over-reacts to touch, movement, tastes, sounds, or bright light
- Is easily overwhelmed in group situations, which may result in overexcitement, meltdowns or shutting down
- Has difficulty regulating sleep/wake cycle--settling for sleep, staying asleep, and waking without irritability
- Can't get "enough" sensory input: touching, squeezing, moving, bouncing or mouthing
- Behavioral interventions not very effective
- Has poor muscle tone, fatigues easily, leans on people, or slumps in a chair
- Uses an inappropriate amount of force when handling objects, coloring, writing, or interacting with siblings or pets
- Difficulty learning how to play or get along with other children
- Does not read non-verbal cues well

If you suspect that behavioral challenges from a child under your care may be related to a sensory processing disorder, make a call to **Emerge - A Child's Place**. The occupational therapists of **Emerge** specialize in pediatrics and have extensive training and experience in the evaluation and treatment of SPD. **Emerge** provides pediatric occupational therapy creatively tailored for each child's unique needs.



Therapists address the sensory processing foundations, functional skill development, emotional regulation, and social skills that will equip children to be successful in community, home and school environments. **At Emerge, parents typically begin to see very positive outcomes from occupational therapy in as little as one to two months.**



Sensory Processing Disorder Now Has a Diagnosis Code!

While doctors and therapists have been diagnosing and treating SPD for the past four decades, the coding experts have long overlooked the condition. This has discouraged insurance payment and caused other problems in recognition and treatment. The latest edition of the Diagnostic Manual of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL) names Regulatory Sensory Processing Disorder as an entire category of diagnoses (codes #200 to 207.9). For more information on new diagnosis codes, contact Emerge.

**Please tell parents about
Emerge - A Child's Place
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish**