



'Sensory integration' is the term used for the brain processing information that comes through the senses. It is crucial for a child's development and education.

Babies and children first learn about the world around them through their senses. Playing and interacting with everything around them stimulates the senses and creates engagement with others, which forms a platform from which they see the world and relate to it. Deficits in sensory processing/ integration can potentially affect later skills that a child develops.

Most children develop sensory integration through ordinary childhood play activities. When children do not process sensory information effectively, they may need more input than average in order to respond or may over-react to stimulation.

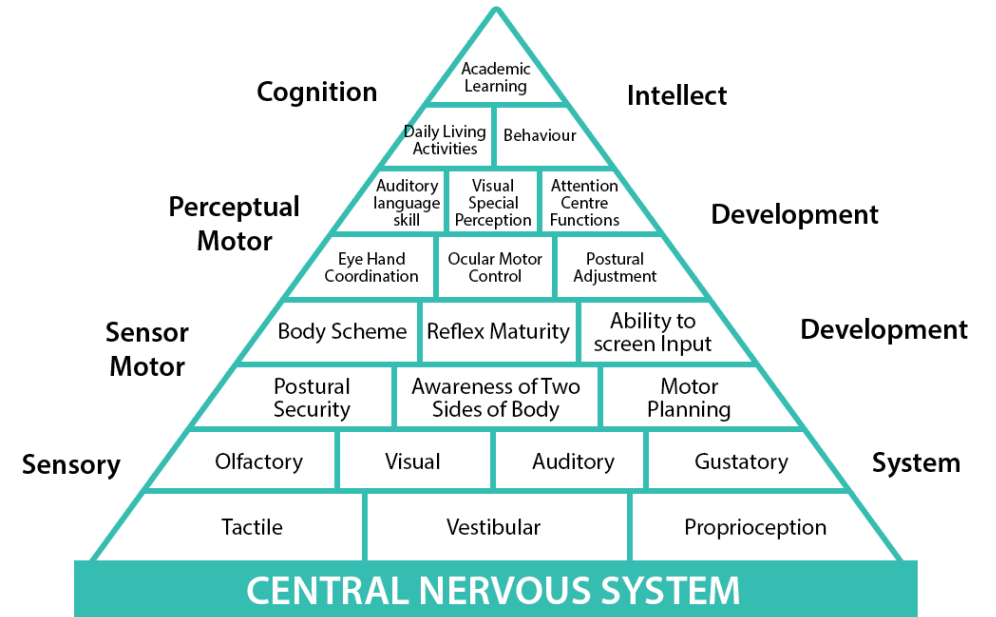
We have 8 sensory systems :

1. Auditory/ sound
2. Visual/ sight
3. Gustatory/ Taste
4. Olfactory/ smell
5. Tactile/ touch
6. Proprioception/ body awareness
7. Vestibular/ movement
8. Interoception/ internal sensations

Sensory Integration

Sensory Processing is how children learn about and understand the world through their senses.

Difficulties processing sensory information can be observed in numerous presentations. For example : being easily distracted, lacking attention, recoil or lashing out when touched, distress at loud sounds, frequent self spinning . In fact, there are numerous different symptoms that can be caused by poor sensory processing. Please refer to the rest of the 'sensory processing series' of leaflets for further information.



Pyramid of Learning (Williams and Shellenberger 1996).

The Pyramid of Learning is a way of looking at the whole child. The very foundation of the pyramid is a child's central nervous system which is closely linked to their sensory systems. Adequate sensorimotor development is built on adequate registration and processing of sensory information.

