

HOPE AND HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



VISION

A world in which all people with Sensory Processing Disorder receive support and services that result in having a meaningful and fulfilled life.

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the quality of life for children, adolescents and adults with SPD, and their families by providing:

- Comprehensive assessment and effective intervention for Sensory Processing Disorder
- Rigorous research with our collaborating university-based research partners
- Education for caregivers, pediatric professionals, and educators; and
- Advocacy for official recognition of SPD worldwide.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SPD

- ★ SPD is a complex disorder of the brain that affects the way sensations are experienced and organized.
- ★ Research indicates that at least 1 in 6 children experiences sensory challenges sufficient to disrupt their academic, social, and/or emotional development. That's about 16% of the childhood population – 4 or 5 children in every classroom.
- ★ In children with autistic spectrum disorders, the incidence of SPD is estimated to be even higher – at least 80%. SPD is believed to occur in about 30% of gifted children as well.
- ★ The disorder has unique symptoms not explained by other known conditions and is often misdiagnosed.
- ★ Studies indicate that occupational therapy is an effective intervention for treating children with SPD.
- ★ Children with SPD who reach adulthood without receiving treatment continue to be affected by sensory challenges.

WHAT WE DO ABOUT SPD

- ★ RESEARCH the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of SPD and mobilize research groups nationwide to expand knowledge about SPD with scientific study
- ★ PUBLISH groundbreaking research in medical and other journals
- ★ SPONSOR annual international educational symposiums each year to spread the word about the latest breakthroughs in research and treatment
- ★ MENTOR clinicians from around the world in innovative SPD assessment and intervention
- ★ TEACH families and professionals about SPD through an eLearning program of online classes taught by experts in the field
- ★ SPONSOR the most comprehensive SPD site on the worldwide web
- ★ ADVOCATE for recognition of SPD as a separate and valid disorder in diagnostic manuals including the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*



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