INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



Recognising Sensory Processing Difficulties



www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk

Telephone: 0151 486 1788 Email: info@addvancedsolutions.co.uk

Registered office: 54 St James Street, Liverpool, L1 OAB

Community Network Office: Business First Centre, 23 Goodlass Road, Speke, L24 9HJ.



Recognising Sensory Processing Difficulties

Sensory processing difficulties can affect children and young people in different ways. Some can be under sensitive in certain senses and can present as sensory seekers, some children and young people can be over sensitive in certain senses and present as a sensory avoider..

Examples of sensory avoidance:

- · Complaining about smells
- Refusing to wear shoes
- Covering their ears with their hands
- Tries to avoid water: bath-time, swimming, showers
- Annoyed by labels and cuffs on clothes
- · Refuses hugs
- · Dislikes getting hands messy
- · Needs more personal space than average
- · Avoids climbing and swinging
- Avoids bright lights
- 'Picky eater'

Examples of sensory seeking behaviour:

- Likes to smell objects and sometimes people
- Very loud
- · Climbs on everything
- · Deliberately bumps into people and objects
- · Loves messy play
- Enjoys bright / flashing lights
- Playing rough
- Licking and chewing extensively
- Seeks out spicy and salty foods
- · Moving, running, jumping constantly
- Over-eating

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