



The Impact on Learning for pupils living with Sensory Processing Difficulties

Children with Sensory Processing Disorder/Difficulties often have problems with motor skills and other abilities needed for success in school. As a result, they often become socially isolated from their peers and can suffer from low self-esteem, lack of confidence and other social and emotional issues.

These difficulties often put children with SPD at high risk for many emotional, social, and educational problems, including the inability to make friends or keep friends or be a part of a group to engage in learning. This can lead to poor self-concept, academic failure, and often being labelled, uncooperative, belligerent, disruptive, or "out of control." Anxiety, depression, aggression, or other behaviour problems can often follow. Parents may feel they are blamed for their children's behaviour by people who are unaware of the child's "invisible difficulties" and often teachers are not always offered or able to access appropriate training around Sensory Processing Difficulties to understand and support the needs of the children in their classroom struggling to cope on a daily basis. There are treatments which are effective for children or young people struggling to cope with Sensory Processing Difficulties but it is not always available or accessible as there is a requirement for a trained SI occupational therapists to work in partnership to assess and provide treatment and support families and schools to ensure the child's needs are fully met. Far too many children with sensory processing symptoms go undiagnosed, misdiagnosed or inappropriately supported and often the behaviour is treated rather than the symptom.

Everyday activities can be impacted upon causing children and young people to exclude themselves from day to day situations such as shopping, visiting restaurants, visiting families or friends' homes, accessing friends parties, holidays or social or leisure activities.

Untreated and unmanaged SPD that persists into adulthood can often affect an individual's ability to succeed within relationships, work, and social environments.

(Adapted from the SPD Foundation's website)

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