

# INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



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## A Brief History of Sensory Processing Difficulties/Disorder

Sensory Integration Dysfunction (as Sensory Processing Disorder was initially known) was first defined by Dr A Jean Ayres in 1972.

Dr Ayres initially trained as an occupational therapist then completed a PhD in educational psychology – the two aspects of learning difficulties that she brought together in her understanding of sensory integration/processing.

She identified, when confronted with patients who complained of pain when brushing their teeth, that the cause was inefficient organisation of sensory information within the central nervous system. She believed that this kind of inefficiency in effectively processing information led to a multitude of symptoms including disorganisation of movement and learning and behavioural difficulties.

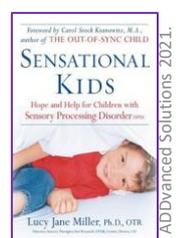
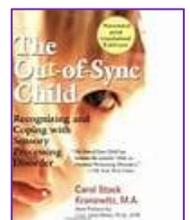
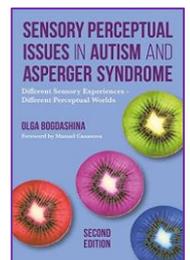
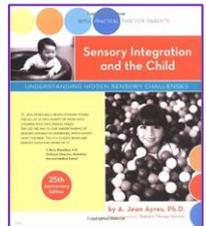
In 1976 the Ayres Clinic in Torrance, California was founded, and sensory integration therapists treated children there. Dr Ayres developed a theoretical framework a setoff standardised tests (now known as the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests) and Sensory Integration Therapy; a clinical approach for identification and treatment of SI difficulties in children.

Dr Olga Bogdashini has also worked and written extensively in the field of autism and particularly in the area of sensory-perceptual and communication problems. Her book on sensory perceptual issues (pub. 2003) discusses her insight into the protective functions of many previously bewildering behaviours among autistic children.

Lucy Jane Miller, director of the STAR Institute for SPD in the US has also carried out decades of research and work with children with sensory processing difficulties. She believes that 3% of the population has SPD with no co-occurring conditions.

Sensory Integration Education is a UK organisation that provides training and is carrying out research to support the future diagnosis of SPD:

<https://www.sensoryintegrationeducation.com/>



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