

SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDER
AND NEURODIVERSITY IN
PRIMARY SCHOOL:
HOW IT CAN AFFECT LEARNING





Students on the spectrum and neurodiverse students often have difficulty recognizing when they are over or under-stimulated; therefore, they frequently experience sensory overload.

Their tolerance for some sensory experiences is much lower or much higher.

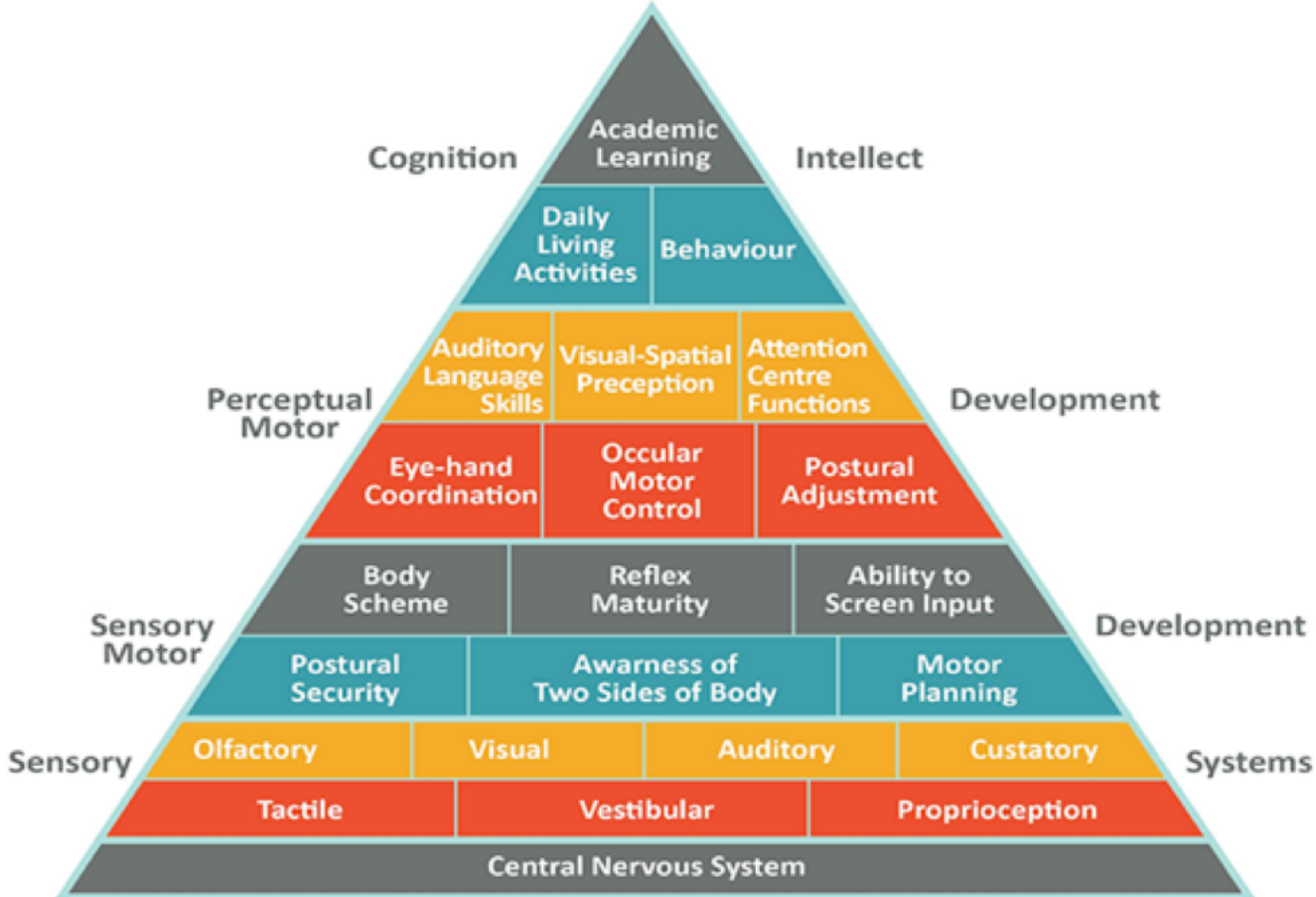
When this is the case, how do we recognize this in students??



Examples of children with sensory processing difficulties in the school environment

System	Challenge	Impact on School
Vestibular	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balance• Posture• Muscle Tone• Eye Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty with self-control• Difficulty maintaining concentration
Proprioceptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint control• Muscle force control• Visual perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty engaging physically• Reduced ability to concentrate• Reduced ability to organize
Tactile	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek input• Overly sensitive	Reduced focus on learning

PYRAMID of LEARNING



THE PYRAMID OF LEARNING EXPLAINED

- Our children's ability to engage in academic skills depends on the quality and ability of their sensory systems to integrate
- If there is something going on with the Central Nervous System (Bottom of the Pyramid) it is hard for the child to conquer sensory system integration and subsequently hard to master sensory-motor development
- In summation: The top of the pyramid (Academic Learning) is challenging for children who don't have the foundational sensory and developmental skills to build on

