

IS IT BEHAVIOUR OR IS IT SENSORY ???

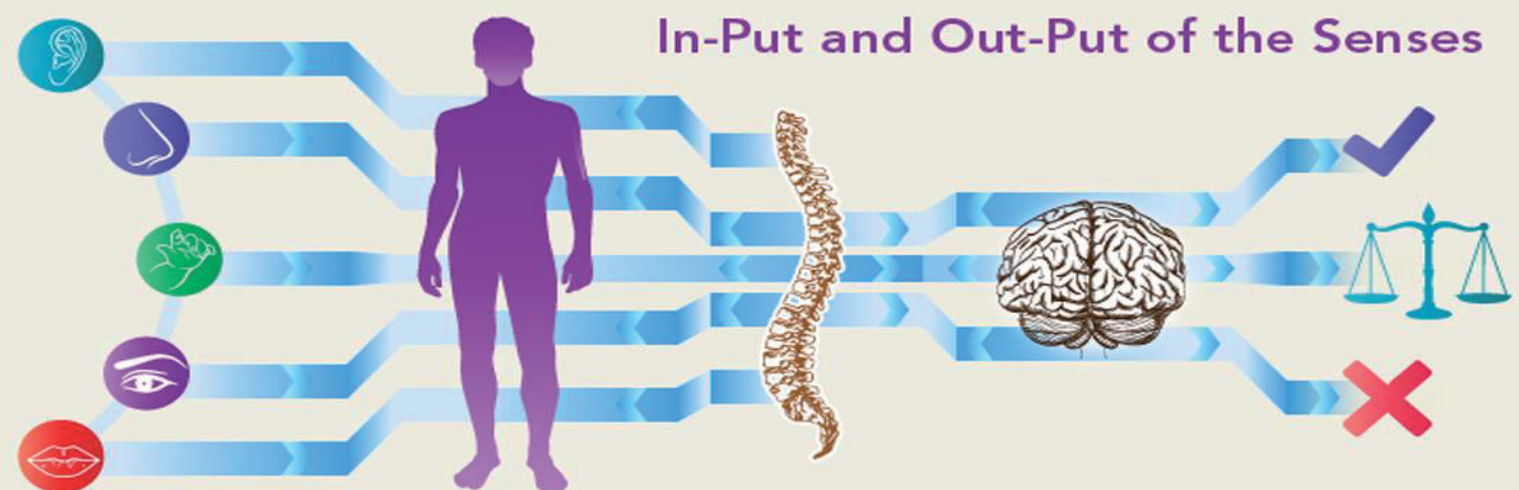
Some children don't behave appropriately not because they won't, because they can't.

Sensory processing disorder is a complex neurological condition causing difficulties with processing information from senses.

Children with sensory processing disorders are frequently labelled as having behavioural problems, inattention, distractibility, motor coordination, hyper/ hypo sensitivities and panic attacks in the dental office .

NEUROLOGICAL TRAFFIC JAM OF SENSES

THE OUT- OF- SYNC CHILD



1. Outside world (environment) enters inside world (body, CNS) through the sensory receptors
2. The peripheral nerves take the info to the spinal cord
3. The info goes then to the brain via nerve tracts
4. Over-arousal: superfluous sensory info passes through the brain "filter" causing excitement, confusion, and distractibility
5. Under-arousal: insufficient sensory info gets processed in the brain, causing absence of mind, delay, and accidents

I don't like to brush my teeth
 I don't like bright lights
 Some smells really bother me
 I am a picky eater
 I can be clumsy and fall over things sometimes
 I have poor gross motor skills
 Sometimes I don't like to be touched
 I like wearing the same clothes
 I lose my balance
 I crave fast spinning
 Poor body awareness

I can be sensitive to loud sounds
 I don't like to brush, wash or cut my hair
 I like to smell people and objects sometimes
 I don't like tags on my clothes
 I don't like to wear clothes
 I enjoy being squeezed, I like pressure
 I don't want my hands dirty
 I have poor fine motor skills
 I get overstimulated and meltdown
 I get fearful and anxious sometimes
 I overreact to minor scrapes and cuts
 I cling to adults I trust
 I sometimes walk on my toes

STRATEGIES FOR PEDIATRIC DENTISTS TO MANAGE SENSORY STORMS

- Have the child wear the x-ray vest during the entire appointment to provide deep pressure.
- Have the parent do oral deep pressure in the form of an electric tooth brush or mini massager prior to the appointment.
- Use a firm touch whenever touching the child.
- Have the child eat something very chewy prior to the appointment.
- Verbally warn the child before each procedure.
- Allow child to listen to calming music over headphones if the office noises or equipments noises are distressing.
- Have the child wear a tight hat before and during treatment.
- Allow the child to wear something that blocks the bright lights .

