



Maximum Potential

Pediatric OT, PT, SLT



Specializing in Sensory Integration

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What Children Are Telling You

Behavior: Vestibular System – self-regulation

Hypermobility: Vestibular System – low tone

Low tone: Vestibular System – stands to increase muscle tone

Constant movement (can't stay in seat): can be low tone (not able to organize muscles to hold a position – secondary to low tone and decreased co-contraction (flexors and extensors working together); also due to under-reactive vestibular system (need to move to keep vestibular system 'online')

Can't hold a sitting posture: low tone (difficult to organize muscles to hold posture, secondary to low tone and decreased co-contraction)

Mushy mouth/articulation issues: low oral tone (vestibular system) and often proprioceptive issue (not aware of where tongue, teeth, lips are)

Self-regulation: impulse control; attention and focus; distractibility - Vestibular System issue

Makes sounds: Providing auditory support for self and also trying to block out sound that is too stimulating (white noise) – immature Auditory System

Hands over ears for fire drills or loud, unexpected sounds; behavioral response to loud sounds (gets upset or frantic) – immature Auditory System

Sensory seeking – hugs (deep pressure): proprioceptive issue. Hugs/deep pressure have an organizing, calming, focusing effect on the child.

Sensory seeking – can't keep hands to self: tactile issue – seeking input/trying to mature Tactile System

Tactile Defensive – uses clothing as armor (hoodie up, sleeves down over hands); pulls away from touch; unexpected touch produces strong aversive reaction from child – Immature Tactile System

Bumps into others and desks: combination of vestibular and proprioception; lacks awareness of where self/body parts are (spatial orientation)