Autism and sensory processing in everyday life

Thursday 24 May 2012 - Marriott Renaissance Hotel, Manchester

A one-day conference aimed at developing a greater understanding of sensory processing and how difficulties with sensory integration can impact on people with autism.

Key topics

- Definitions and development of sensory integration theory
- Sensory integration dysfunction and how this relates to difficulties in everyday life
- The evidence base for sensory integration theory
- Strategies for children in the home and out and about
- Making your classroom more sensory friendly
- Strategies for adults at work and in social situations
- Designing sound case studies and presenting results for maximum effect

Get our early booking rate – register by 13 April 2012

In association with:

www.autism.org.uk/conferences/sensory2012
A one-day conference aimed at developing a greater understanding of sensory processing and how difficulties with sensory integration can impact on people with autism.

Sensory processing describes our ability to take in information through our senses, organise and interpret that information, and make a meaningful response. For most people, sensory integration develops in the course of ordinary childhood activities, but for some people with autism, sensory integration does not develop as efficiently as it should.

People with sensory integration difficulties may be over-sensitive (hypersensitive) or under-sensitive (hyposensitive) in some or all senses. People who are hypersensitive feel as if they’re being constantly bombarded with sensory information. Noise, crowded places and being in close proximity to others may cause extreme anxiety. Certain smells and textures can also be overwhelming. Conversely, people who are hyposensitive may seek out sensory stimulation by seeking extreme sensations. They may not notice pain or objects that are too hot or cold, and may need high-intensity input to get involved in activities. Still others have trouble distinguishing between different types of sensory stimulation.

People who struggle to deal with all this information are likely to become stressed or anxious, and possibly feel physical pain. This can result in behaviours that may not, on the surface, seem linked to sensory sensitivities, but could be the underlying cause.

This conference will help to develop a greater understanding of sensory processing and how difficulties with sensory integration can impact on a person with autism. As well as an introduction to sensory processing and sensory integration, our expert speakers will also present an overview of the evidence base, examining the issues around the current research and looking at what research still needs to be done.

We will also look at the main sensory integration approaches in practice and how these can be applied in everyday environments, such as at school, in supported living, at work and within the home. It will look at the use of sensory stimuli to encourage and support the development of language and interaction, plus tools and strategies that can be used to create programmes and make simple changes to the environment, so that people with sensory difficulties can live as independently as possible.

This event is a great opportunity to gain an understanding of sensory issues and autism.

Join us to hear experts in the field and gain a wealth of knowledge, plus engage in stimulating debate and exchange new ideas.

Take advantage of our Early Booking rate – book by Friday 13 April and save £50!

Who should attend?

- Clinicians across the professional field, including psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, paediatricians, GPs and nurses
- Commissioners for services for people with autism
- Social workers and support workers
- Education professionals from mainstream schools, special schools and local authorities
- Voluntary sector groups and not-for-profit organisations
- Individuals with autism and their parents, families and carers
- Occupational therapists

Why attend?

- gain a full understanding of sensory processing and integration
- find out the latest research and evidence for sensory integration theory
- learn practical strategies for supporting people with autism in everyday environments
- hear first-hand insights on the unique sensory issues experienced by people with autism
- network with other professionals and experts in the field.

About the organisers

The National Autistic Society (NAS) is the leading UK charity for people with autism (including Asperger syndrome), their families and the professionals who work with them. We provide information, support and pioneering services, and campaign for a better world for people with autism.
Plenary Session

09:30 Welcome by the Chairs

09:40 KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Sensory processing and autism – where's the evidence, what's the research and why does it matter?
Dr Roseann C Schaaf
Vice Chairman and Associate Professor
Department of Occupational Therapy
Thomas Jefferson University

10:40 My sensory day
Robyn Steward
Trainer, Speaker, Mentor and Autism Consultant

11:20 Refreshment Break

12:00 An introduction to autism and sensory processing - what's it got to do with everyday life, development, learning and behaviour?
Dr Rohit Shankar
Consultant Neuropsychiatrist, Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Hon. Associate Professor Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry

12:40 Lunch

Stream Sessions

STREAM 1 – PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

13:30 Strategies for children - coping with everyday life and activities
Alison Neal
Independent Occupational Therapist
Alison Neal Occupational Therapy

14:00 Strategies for adults - coping with work and social environments
Steve McGuinness
NAS Trustee, Councillor and Autism Consultant
and
Ros Urwin
Director – Education Committee
Sensory Integration Network

14:30 Refreshment Break

15:00 Strategies for teachers – making you and your classroom more sensory friendly
Speaker to be confirmed

STREAM 2 – OT PROFESSIONALS

13:30 Designing simple but effective case studies
Dr Roseann C Schaaf
Vice Chairman and Associate Professor
Department of Occupational Therapy
Thomas Jefferson University

14:00 Bridging the gap: presenting results for maximum impact
Dr Rohit Shankar
Consultant Neuropsychiatrist, Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Hon. Associate Professor Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry
and
Kath Smith
Occupational Therapist and Lecturer
Sensory Integration Network

14:30 Refreshment Break

15:00 Case studies around complex scenarios
Dr Helen Pearce
Consultant in Developmental Psychiatry
Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
and
Ros Urwin
Director – Education Committee
Sensory Integration Network

Plenary Sessions

15:30 Using floortime and intensive interaction
Speaker to be confirmed

16:10 Closing remarks by the Chairs

16:15 Conference ends

The NAS reserves the right to make amendments to the advertised conference programme and speakers.

To register, visit www.autism.org.uk/conferences/sensory2012
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Rates

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<tr>
<th>Delegate rate</th>
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To make a booking:

www.autism.org.uk/conferences/sensory2012

Email conference@nas.org.uk

Tel 0115 911 3367

Fax 0115 911 3362

Post NAS Conference and Events Team

6th Floor, Castle Heights

72 Maid Marian Way,

Nottingham NG1 6BJ

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

OT PROFESSIONALS

Please confirm which stream you would like to attend:

Delegate details

Title
First name
Surname
Job title
Tel
Organisation
Fax
Email

Keeping in touch with you via email can help to keep our costs down. Please tick this box if you are happy to receive emails from us.

Address
Town
County
Postcode

The National Autistic Society would like to update you from time to time in order to inform you about our work. If you do not want to receive any mailings from The National Autistic Society, please tick this box.

NAS membership number:

Any special requirements

e.g. Access/Dietary/Support/Other?

Payment details

CHEQUE

Please find enclosed a cheque for £

PAYMENT DETAILS

Please make all cheques payable to The National Autistic Society

INVOICE Please complete all details below

Invoice for the attention of

PO Number (if applicable)

Address

Postcode

Tel

Email

CREDIT CARD

Card type
Card number

Start date
Expiry date
Security code

Name on card

Signature

Terms & conditions

Conference fees

All prices include entrance to the conference and seminar sessions, lunch, refreshments and comprehensive delegate documentation. Fees do not include delegate accommodation and travel and The National Autistic Society (NAS) is not responsible for arranging these.

Payment

Payment must be received before the conference date. If payment is not received by this time, delegates will be required to guarantee payment by credit card on the day of the conference. Cheques should be in pounds sterling and should be made payable to “The National Autistic Society”.

Cancellations and Refunds

Delegates who wish to cancel their places must do so in writing. If notice of cancellation is not received within 21 days prior to the conference, then we regret that no refund can be made.

Substitutions can be made without charge up to 3 days prior to the event. In the event that the NAS has to cancel the event, delegates will be given as much notice as possible and given a full refund (if paid in full) or a credit note (where payment is not yet made). We regret that we will be unable to compensate delegates for any travel or accommodation costs incurred.

Overseas Delegates

EU countries: Delegates attending from EU countries are exempt from paying VAT only when their organisation is VAT registered within their own country. Confirmation of the VAT registration number is required at the time of booking. Non-EU countries: VAT will be charged on the invoice but you are able to claim back the VAT charge.

How did you hear about this conference?

Please write here

Delegate rate

Book by 13 April 2012

Individuals on low income*

Exhibitor rate

For full details of what the exhibitor rate includes, please visit the website: www.autism.org.uk/conferences/sensory2011