

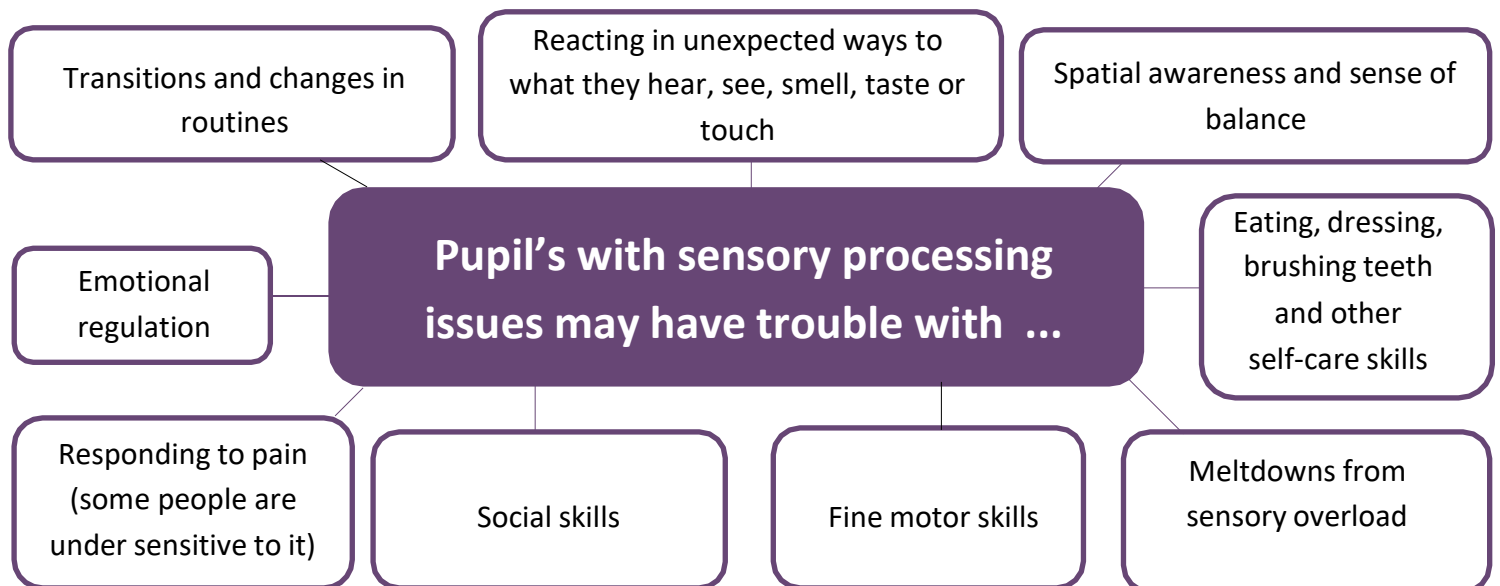
Sensory Processing Issues Fact Sheet

Sensory processing issues is ...

- ✓ **Difficulties in organising information from the senses.** These include responding to sights, sounds, smells, touch and sensory input related to balance and movement.
- ✓ **Often called *sensory processing disorder (SPD)*.** Doctors might not use this term, but many occupational therapists do.
- ✓ **A common co-occurrence.** Sensory issues are often found in pupils with ADHD or autism.

Sensory processing issues are not ...

- ✗ **Just pupil's being 'too sensitive.'** Sensory issues can be overwhelming and can make it hard to function in school and at home.
- ✗ **A sign that pupils need more discipline.** Adults need to find out what is causing pupils to melt down, not punish them for it.
- ✗ **Always consistent.** Responses to sensory input can vary from pupil to pupil and from day to day.



Ways to help pupils with sensory issues

Occupational therapy can help pupils with sensory issues feel less overwhelmed, learn how to self-regulate and cope with challenging situations.

Classroom accommodations positive behaviour intervention plans and informal supports like chewing or using a fidget spinner can help at school.

Self-advocacy training helps pupils understand, ask for and explain to others what they need to succeed.



Other Information ...

USEFUL INFORMATION SHEET: <https://www.hct.nhs.uk/media/1259/understanding-sensory-difficulties.pdf>

CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SENSORY PROCESSING ISSUES:

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/partnering-with-childs-school/instructional-strategies/at-a-glance-classroom-accommodations-for-sensory-processing-issues>

AUTISM AND SENSORY ISSUES: <https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/>