



THE
HOUSSON CENTER
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

8100 Lomo Alto Dr., Suite 100 · Dallas, Texas 75225
Office: (214) 351-0053 · Fax: (214) 351-5581

Processing Disorders In Children

A **processing disorder** is a disorder in which a child struggles to effectively use the information gathered by the senses. If the brain's processing of auditory, visual, and sensory information is impaired, a child's ability to learn and thrive in an academic setting is affected, often leading to low self-esteem and socialization difficulties.

Processing Disorders can be categorized into **3 main categories:**

According to <https://www.brainbalancecenters.com/who-we-help/processing-disorders>:

Sensory Processing Disorder	Sensory Processing Disorder, or SPD, can result in over-responsiveness to sensory input, like extreme sensitivity to loud noise or itchy clothing, or under-responsiveness, which might present as a lack of awareness of personal space or a desire for thrill seeking. The reaction to sensory stimuli can interfere with the child's daily life.
Visual Processing Disorder	Visual processing disorders can take many shapes - your child might not be able to distinguish between shapes, have difficulty copying notes from the board or have difficulty remembering the correct sequence for letters or numbers in a series.

Auditory Processing Disorder	Auditory Processing Disorder, or APD, impacts a child's comprehension and recall of what they hear and auditory processing in the brain. According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, APD can result in issues related to listening for children, including repeated requests for clarification of spoken directions, or difficulty understanding conversations if they're in a noisy place.
-------------------------------------	--

Symptoms

- Over-responsive to sounds, textures, or other stimuli
- Trouble hearing background noise
- Distracted and inattentive behavior
- Attention disorders
- Falling behind in reading and spelling
- Asking for information to be repeated

Risk Factors for Children

- Neurological issues and seizures
- Chronic middle ear infections
- Concussions or head injuries
- Genetic factors
- Exposure to drugs
- Certain developmental delays
- Having been under stimulated or overstimulated or institutionalized during critical periods of neurological development

Treatment

- Auditory training
- Hearing aids and listening devices
- Sensory integration therapy
- Vision therapy
- Vestibular therapy
- Reflex integration therapy
- Breathing techniques

Resources:

- [Auditory processing disorder \(APD\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/central-auditory.html>
- <https://www.childrenshospital.org/conditions/auditory-processing-disorder>
- <https://www.stonecrestcenter.com/development-disorders/sensory-processing-disorder/symptoms-effects/#:~:text=Risk%20Factors%3A,Having%20food%20allergies>
- https://www.advancedvisiontherapycenter.com/about/blog/e_1096/Signs-of-a-Vision-Problem/2021/4/What-is-Visual-Processing-Disorder-
- [Language Disorder | Psychology Today](#)
- [Language Disorder in Children: A Quick Guide \(childmind.org\)](#)
- [What Is Language Processing Disorder? The Complete Guide - LDRFA](#)
- [Sensory Processing Issues - Child Mind Institute](#)
- [Sensory Processing Disorder | Psychology Today](#)
- [About SPD | STAR Institute \(sensoryhealth.org\)](#)
- [What You Should Know About Cognitive Processing Disorders | Rice Psychology](#)

Extra Helpful Resources (Books)

- *The Whole Brain Child* by Daniel J. Siegel, M.D. and Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D.
- *How to Talk so Little Kids Will Listen* by Joanna Faber and Julie King
- *How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen so Kids Will Talk* by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish
- *No-Drama Discipline; the Whole-Brain Way to Calm the Chaos and Nurture your Child's Developing Mind* by Daniel J. Siegel, M.D. and Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D.
- *Breaking Free of Child Anxiety and OCD* by Eli R. Lebowitz, Ph.D.
- *Freeing your Child from Anxiety* by Tamar E. Chansky, Ph.D.