NO PREP

# Sensory Disorders and Challenges

**Includes:** Student reading, case study, differentiated questions, teacher key

Name: Period: Date:

## Sensory Disorders and Challenges

Keywords: sensory disorders, sensory processing disorder, synesthesia

**Focus**

Common sensory disorders, such as sensory processing disorder and synesthesia, and their impact on perception and daily life.

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**Focus**

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**Introduction**

Our senses are essential for interacting with the world around us. They provide us with information about our environment, allowing us to navigate, communicate, and learn. However, sometimes our senses can malfunction, leading to sensory disorders that can significantly impact our perception and daily life. In this reading, we will explore some common sensory disorders, including sensory processing disorder and synesthesia.

**Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD)**

Sensory processing disorder (SPD) is a neurological condition that affects how the brain processes sensory information. People with SPD may be overly sensitive or under-sensitive to sensory stimuli, such as sounds, sights, smells, tastes, or touch. This can make it difficult for them to regulate their emotions and behaviors. There are three main types of SPD: sensory oversensitivity, sensory undersensitivity, and sensory seeking. People with sensory oversensitivity may be bothered by loud noises, bright lights, or rough textures. Those with sensory undersensitivity may crave sensory input and engage in sensory seeking behaviors, such as rocking, spinning, or chewing on objects.

**Synesthesia**

Synesthesia is a neurological condition in which stimulation of one sensory pathway leads to an experience in another sensory pathway. For example, people with synesthesia may see colors associated with sounds or taste shapes. There are many

different types of synesthesia, including grapheme-color synesthesia, sound-to-color synesthesia, and tactile-visual synesthesia. Synesthesia is not a disorder in the traditional sense, as it does not typically cause distress or impairment. In fact, many people with synesthesia find their experiences to be enjoyable and enriching. However, synesthesia can be challenging to explain to others, and it can sometimes lead to misunderstandings. Baranek (2005) provides a comprehensive overview of SPD, including its symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment. In his book, he discusses the challenges that people with SPD may face, such as difficulty regulating emotions, sensory overload, and social difficulties.

**The Impact of Sensory Disorders on Daily Life**

Sensory disorders can have a significant impact on a person's daily life. Individuals with SPD may struggle with sensory overload, sensory avoidance, or sensory seeking behaviors. These challenges can make it difficult to participate in school, work, or social activities. People with synesthesia may also face challenges. While synesthesia is not typically a disorder, it can be difficult to explain to others and can sometimes lead to misunderstandings. Additionally, synesthesia can make it difficult to focus on tasks that require concentration, such as reading or driving.

**Conclusion**

Sensory disorders can be a source of significant challenges for individuals and their families. Understanding these conditions is important for providing support and accommodations. By raising awareness about sensory disorders, we can help to improve the quality of life for individuals who are affected by them.

**Primary Source Excerpt**

**Baranek, G. M. (2005). Sensory processing disorder: A comprehensive guide for parents and professionals. Fisher Publishing Group. "Sensory processing disorder can make it difficult for children to participate in everyday activities, such as going to school, playing with friends, or even eating meals."**

1. According to Baranek, how can SPD affect a child's participation in everyday activities?

_____

_____

2. How does Baranek's perspective on SPD contribute to our understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with this condition?

_____

_____

**Multiple Choice**

1. Which of the following is not a type of sensory processing disorder?

    a) Sensory seeking

    b) Sensory undersensitivity

    c) Sensory deprivation

    d) Sensory oversensitivity

2. Synesthesia is a condition in which:

    a) Stimulation of one sensory pathway leads to an experience in another sensory pathway

    b) People are unable to perceive sensory stimuli because their receptors stop responding

    c) People have difficulty regulating their emotions

    d) People are overly sensitive to sensory stimuli

3. Sensory disorders can affect a person's:

    a) Emotional well-being

    b) Daily life

    c) Perception

    d) All of the above

**Matching**

Write the letter of the correct definition on the line next to each term.

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| 1. ___ Sensory processing disorder | A) A neurological condition in which stimulation of one sensory pathway leads to an experience in another sensory pathway. |
| 2. ___ Synesthesia | B) Engaging in sensory behaviors to seek stimulation. |
| 3. ___ Sensory overload | C) A neurological condition that affects how the brain processes sensory information. |
| 4. ___ Sensory seeking | D) The condition of being overwhelmed by sensory stimuli. |

**Fill-in-the-Blank**

1. _____ is a neurological condition that affects how the brain processes sensory information.

2. People with _____ may see colors associated with sounds or taste shapes.

3. Sensory disorders can have a significant impact on a person's _____.

**Short Answer**

Answer each question in 2-4 complete sentences.

1. How can sensory processing disorder affect a person's social relationships?

_____

_____

_____

2. Discuss the challenges that individuals with synesthesia may face in educational settings.

3. Explain the importance of providing accommodations for individuals with sensory disorders.