

Supporting Sensory Processing Differences for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders

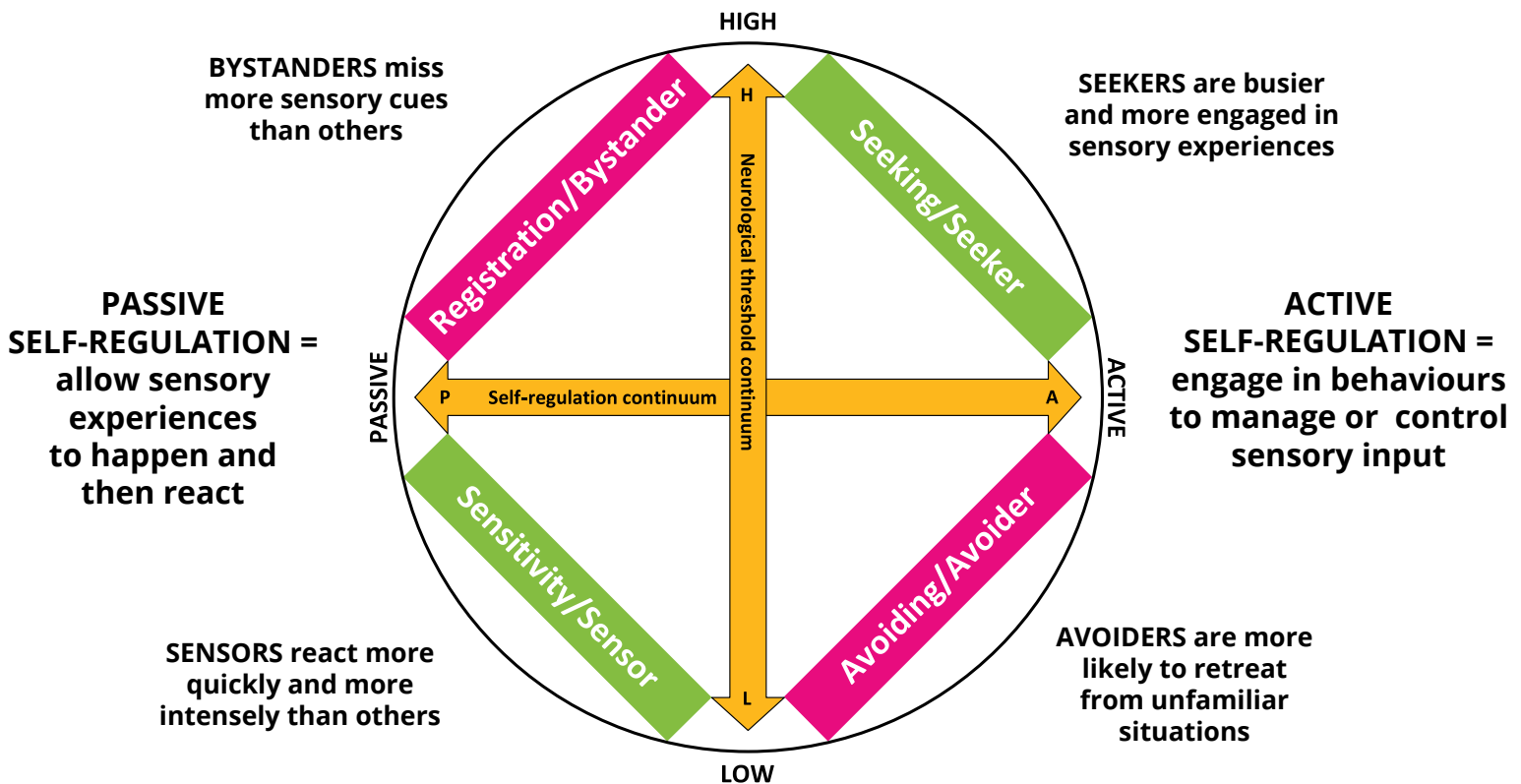


- Prevalence of Autism in the U.S. population is estimated at 1 in 68, with 1 in 42 boys; 1 in 189 girls*
- As high as 80–90% of individuals with Autism experience differences with Sensory Processing to their typically developing peers

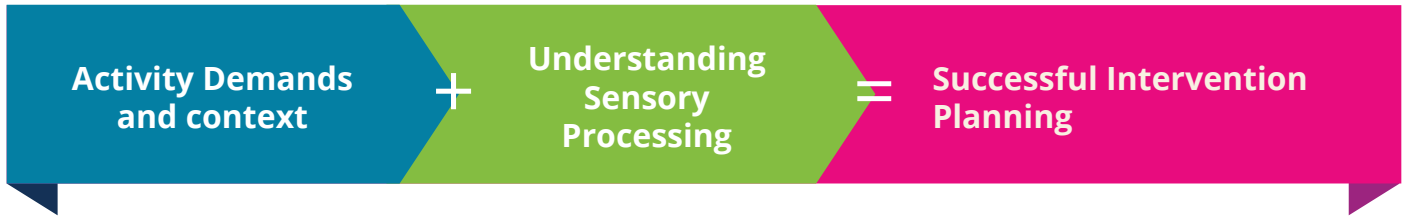
Dunn’s Sensory Processing Framework

Dunn’s Sensory Processing Framework explains the interplay between neurological thresholds and self-regulatory behavioural responses to explain how we process sensory information.

HIGH THRESHOLD = slow to notice sensory stimuli

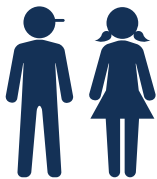


LOW THRESHOLD = quick to notice sensory stimuli



Supporting Sensory Processing Patterns in Everyday Life

Supporting SEEKING Patterns	
<p>If a child exhibits seeking patterns more than others, and this interferes with everyday life, add sensory value to experiences. Seekers are great at creating new play scenarios or creative ways to present their work.</p>	<p>If a child exhibits seeking patterns less than others, and this interferes with participation, provide an increased variety of sensory input to help them remain engaged with tasks. Children with this pattern are not likely to explore or pursue additional input.</p>
Supporting AVOIDING Patterns	
<p>If a child exhibits avoiding patterns more than others, and this interferes with everyday life, decrease sensory experiences in everyday tasks. Avoiders are content to be alone, and prefer environments with limited sensory input.</p>	<p>If a child exhibits avoiding patterns less than others, and this interferes with everyday life, organize sensory experiences, activities that are fast paced or that require filtering out are more likely to be challenging.</p>
Supporting SENSITIVITY Patterns	
<p>If a child exhibits sensitivity patterns more than others, and this interferes with everyday life, provide structured patterns of sensory experiences in everyday tasks. Sensors have a high level of awareness of the environment and attention to detail.</p>	<p>If a child exhibits sensitivity patterns less than others, and this interferes with everyday life, increase awareness of sensory experiences in everyday tasks. Children with this pattern can maintain focus on stimuli; they are not distracted.</p>
Supporting REGISTRATION Patterns	
<p>If a child exhibits registration patterns more than others, and this interferes with everyday life, increase the intensity of sensory experiences in everyday tasks. Individuals with this pattern find it easier to focus on tasks of interest in distracting environments—they do not detect stimuli that may be distracting to others.</p>	<p>If a child exhibits registration patterns less than others, and this interferes with everyday life, increase familiarity with sensory experiences in everyday tasks. Children with this pattern may benefit from contexts that are less complex and more predictable.</p>



During the development of the Sensory Profile 2, children with Autism Spectrum Disorders engaged in behaviours depicted on Child Sensory Profile 2 more often than their peers, with the exception of visual sensory processing items. This is not surprising since visual processing has been reported as a relative strength for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.