



Harnessing Sensory Preferences to Support Everyday Life: EVERYBODY WINS!

Presented by: Winnie Dunn, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Autism Virtual Summit 2025

Delivery method: On demand

Instructional Level: Introductory

Sponsored by NCS Pearson, Inc.

Overview

Many autistic individuals have differing sensory needs and preferences when compared with neurotypicals. This session explores the evidence-based concepts that underlie sensory processing and applies those concepts to everyday life examples. We will focus on sensory patterns as core characteristics of each person to identify ways to support autistic individuals' preferred activities and set them up for success with participation in daily routines, communication, and social interactions. Participants will also recognize their own sensory patterns and reflect on how their patterns manifest in their own lives, to illustrate how all patterns are useful and important to who we are.

Learner Outcomes

Based on the content of this session, participants will be able to

1. Analyze the impact of different patterns of sensory perception on participation in daily activities
2. Apply the model of sensory processing to identify challenges, strengths, and necessary supports for autistic individuals based on their sensory profile
3. Generate 3 or more reflective questions to address sensory processing needs with caregivers and neurodivergent people

Time-Ordered Agenda

10 minutes	Introduction to sensory processing
15 minutes	Dunn's Sensory Processing Framework
15 minutes	How sensory processing patterns influence participation in everyday life
15 minutes	Supporting participation for autistic individuals
5 minutes	Q&A

About the Presenter

Dr. Dunn is Distinguished Professor of OT Education at the University of Missouri and a Certified Positive Psychology Coach. She is known for studies about sensory processing in everyday life. She has published more than 100 research articles, chapters, and books, and speaks internationally about her work. She created the Sensory Profiles, which have been translated into dozens of languages. She received the Award of Merit, Eleanor Clark Slagle Lectureship, belongs to the Academy of Research and received the A. Jean Ayres research award. She is honored for innovative and engaging teaching: Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award, Kemper Teaching Fellowship, and Chancellor's Distinguished Professorship.

Disclosures

Financial: Dr. Winnie Dunn is the author of Sensory Profile and receives a fee for this presentation.

Non-financial disclosure: No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists.

NCS Pearson, Inc. is the sponsor of the Autism Virtual Summit 2025. Pearson develops and distributes assessments and intervention tools for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists.

References

Dunn, W. (2014). *Sensory Profile 2: Strengths-Based Approach to Assessment and Planning*. NCS Pearson.

Dunn, W., Little, L., Dean, E., Robertson, S., & Evans, B. (2016). The state of the science on sensory factors and their impact on daily life for children: A scoping review. *OTJR*, 36(Suppl. 2), 35–26S.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1539449215617923>

Howe, F. E. J., & Stagg, S. D. (2016). How sensory experiences affect adolescents with an autistic spectrum condition within the classroom. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 46, 1656–1668.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-015-2693-1>

Ismael, N., Lawson, L. M., & Hartwell, J. (2018). Relationship between sensory processing and participation in daily occupations for children with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 72(3), 7203205030p1–7203205030p9.
<https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2018.024075>

Kojovic, N., Ben Hadid, L., Franchini, M., & Schaer, M. (2019). Sensory processing issues and their association with social difficulties in children with autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 8(10), 1508. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm8101508>

Little, L. M., Dean, E., Tomchek, S., & Dunn, W. (2017a) Classifying sensory profiles of children in the general population. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 43(1), 81–88.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.12391>

Little, L. M., Dean, E., Tomchek, S., & Dunn, W. (2017b). Sensory processing patterns in autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and typical development. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 38(3), 243–254. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01942638.2017.1390809>

Nesayan, A., Gandomani, R. A., Movallali, G., & Dunn, W. (2018). The relationship between sensory processing patterns and behavioral patterns in children. *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, & Early Intervention*, 11, 124–132. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19411243.2018.1432447>

Pfeiffer, B., Coster, W., Snethen, G., Derstine, M., Piller, A. & Tucker, C. (2017). Caregivers' perspectives on the sensory environment and participation in daily activities of children with autism spectrum disorder. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 71(4), 7104220020p1–7104220028p9. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2017.021360>

Eligibility

- Those requesting to earn ASHA CEUs must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:
 - Is an ASHA Member (includes Life Member and International Affiliates)
 - Holds the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC)
 - Is licensed by a state or provincial regulatory agency to practice audiology or speech-language pathology
 - Is credentialed by a state regulatory agency to practice audiology or speech-language pathology
 - Is credentialed by a national regulatory agency to practice audiology or speech-language pathology
 - Is a Clinical Fellow supervised by someone who holds the ASHA CCC
 - Is currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program in audiology or speech-language pathology

Permission for Pearson to Share Information to the ASHA CE Registry

- By selecting YES on the registration link, you agree that you are a current ASHA CE registrant, and grant permission to Pearson to share your identifying information to ASHA Continuing Education Registry.
- By selecting NO on the registration link, you agree that you do not want Pearson to share your identifying information for the ASHA CE registry, and you will maintain your own CE records.





American
Occupational Therapy
Association

Approved Provider

Pearson Assessments is an AOTA Provider of professional development. Course approval ID #12957 This Distance Learning-Interactive course is offered at 0.1 CEUs (Introductory, OT Service Delivery)

AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures.



Earn **1.0** CE Credit

Pearson is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Pearson maintains responsibility for this program and its content.



*Ensuring High Quality
Professional Development*

Earn **1.0** CPD Credit

NASP Approved Provider # **1010**

Pearson is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists to offer continuing education for school psychologists. Pearson maintains responsibility for the program

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

The Continuing Education certificate requires 75% to pass the knowledge check questions.

Qualified Professional Enrollment | \$109 for Autism Summit (this session is included in the registration price). Attendees must meet our Level **B** qualification.

Attendance Requirements

Pearson maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Full attendance is required to receive a Continuing Education certificate—partial credit is not awarded. No credit will be given to participants who are more than 10 minutes late at the beginning of the session or leave early.

Cancellation and refunds

Pearson has the right to terminate/cancel this virtual session for any reason by notifying participants at least five (5) days before the session is to take place. Pearson agrees to provide participants with as much advance notice of changes to and/or cancellation of sessions as possible, but Pearson will not be charged any penalty fees or incur any charges as a result of such termination/cancellation.

**CE Contact Information**

NCS Pearson, Inc.
927 E. Sonterra Blvd., Suite 119
San Antonio, TX 78258
ClinicalTraining@Pearson.com

Accommodation Requests

Pearson will make accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require specific accommodations because of a disability, please email ClinicalTraining@pearson.com at least five (5) calendar days before the session date so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

Complaint Resolution

If a registrant feels that a session was unsatisfactory for any reason, please email ClinicalTraining@Pearson.com.

About Pearson

Pearson is the foremost provider of assessments for psychologists and other mental health professionals. Our reliable, well-validated tools assess child and adult personality, behavior, neuropsychology, ability/intelligence, speech and language, developmental, sensory, motor, vocations, and biopsychosocial issues, leading to better insights and successful outcomes.