



“Red Flag” behaviors that could indicate autism a sensory processing disorder

Problems with eating and/or sleeping

Problems with dressing, grooming, toileting

Sensitivity to touch, noise, smell, visual stimulation

Chronic difficulties with peers

Clumsy, awkward, falling, running into furniture

General difficulty with gross motor skills

Difficulty with fine motor skills- using utensils, writing tools, etc.

Constant motion

Talking too loud, too much, or at the wrong times

Mood swings

Temper tantrums

Easily distracted

Demanding

Difficult to calm

Language/speech difficulties

Can't follow directions

Easily overwhelmed

Slow to learn

Cannot maintain eye contact

Difficulty engaging in a give and take conversation

Is interested in only one topic

Perseverates on an idea or topic

Engages in ritualistic, repetitive behaviors

Sensory Modulation difficulties

Over-responsive:

Dislikes light touch

Picky eater

Difficulty with the feel of clothing, shoes, socks

Difficulty with self care, dressing

Low frustration tolerance

Moody, irritable, fussy

Melt downs, temper tantrums

Hyper- constant motion, talking, making noises

Easily overwhelmed

Refuses to participate in some activities

Under-responsive:

Slow to respond

Food cravings

Eating difficulties

Messy, ignores dirty face and/or hands

Unfocused

Trouble following directions

Doesn't always respond to his name

High pain tolerance

Low muscle tone

Clumsy, toe-walking, gait problems

Lethargic

Sensory Seeking:

Constant motion

Crashes into furniture, walls, other children, the ground

Toe-walks, runs, skips- trouble maintaining a walk

Touches everything- including other people

Chews clothes, hair, non- food items

Engages in rough play

Poor attention span

Gross and/or fine motor difficulties:

Difficulty using tools- utensils, grooming (hair brush, toothbrush), scissors, writing tools

Difficulty with self-help skills

Awkward sitting position, falls out of chairs, poor posture

Clumsy, breaks things, slams doors, has difficulty with balance

Difficulty with oral responses- drooling, gagging, stuffing mouth, putting non-food in mouth

Difficulty with motor planning- organizing movements, eye-hand coordination, crossing the midline, visual tracking, walking across the room

Discrimination of sensory information

Bothered by smells

Overwhelmed with certain noises

Doesn't respond to name, directions, or requests

Misinterprets touch, facial expressions, tone of voice

Difficulty with visual discriminations- b,d,p 6 and 9