



A PERSPECTIVE ON Sensory Processing in Early Childhood

By Shannon Ellison, M.Ed.

“Sensory processing” is one’s ability to accept and organize sensory information in the brain and send messages to the body, resulting in motor, behavior and emotional responses. There are eight, yes, count them, eight sensory systems you’ll typically hear referenced. These systems are the vestibular, proprioceptive, interoceptive, tactile, visual, auditory, olfactory and gustatory systems. Children who experience difficulty regulating the sensory information introduced into the brain and body will either seek out specific types of sensory input, or they will over-respond or under-respond to the input received. Children who are unable to regulate sensory information are likely to demonstrate behavioral challenges and find it difficult to regulate their emotions and maintain attention to tasks (Gourley, Wind, Henninger & Chinitz, 2013). “Sensory integration activities are the lifeline to providing and achieving the necessary challenges for children so they maximize daily functioning, intellectual, social, and emotional development, the development of a positive self-esteem, a mind and body which is ready for learning, positive interactions in the world around them and the achievement of normal developmental milestones.” (<http://www.sensory-processing-disorder.com/>). Just as with all other developmental challenges that children may face in early childhood, the earlier we can identify them and apply intervention strategies, the more effective those strategies can be and the better the outcome for our youngest learners. We will learn more about this exciting topic at the April 25th Physicians Network Breakfast Meeting.

If you are a physician practicing in Oak Park or River Forest, please join us. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 708-613-6122 or emurchison@collab4kids.org

Gourley L., Wind C., Henninger E. M. Chinitz S. Sensory processing difficulties, behavioral problems, and parental stress in a clinical population of young children. *Journal of Child & Family Studies*. 2013;22:912–921. [[PMC free article](#)] [[PubMed](#)]

New State Guidelines for Child Health Examination

SB 565 is now law. These new state guidelines empower students and parents by allowing them to get developmental and social-emotional screenings as part of the already required student health examination. While SB 565 does not mandate that families agree to screenings, screenings must be provided if parents choose to complete them. The Illinois Department of Public Health will be establishing rules around the implementation of these changes to the school code. Spaces will be added to the Certificate of Child Health Examination form to allow medical providers to document that developmental and social-emotional screenings have been provided to children and family. **Changes to Public Act 099-0927 Section 5 of the school code become effective June 1, 2017.**

While many physicians in the community currently provide developmental screenings, social-emotional screenings or both, some providers will be incorporating screening efforts into their practices for the first time or augmenting those in place. The Collaboration for Early Childhood can help you to implement an effective screening program into the services you already provide, to meet the needs of your patients and families. Please ask us how!

Shannon Ellison
708-613-6122 or sellison@collab4kids.org

To learn more about SB 565 HFA#2, visit:
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=099-0927>
<https://app.box.com/s/o3mtvzbrjr3elxz8g8zhdkg1vx9ka1i> (page 10)

Physicians Network Breakfast Sensory Processing in Early Childhood

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

7:15 am-9:00 am

Dominican University, Priory Campus

East Dining Room

7200 West Division, River Forest

Featuring Kim Bryze, PhD, OTR/L,
Midwestern University

To attend the breakfast meeting, please

RSVP by April 18th to:

Erin Murchison at 708-613-6122 or

emurchison@collab4kids.org

Physicians Network Steering Committee

Catherine Amato, RN, M.Ed.

Rebecca Barbato, MD

Liz Bethell

Ann Courter, JD

Lynette De Dios, MSW

Shannon Ellison, M. Ed.

Abigail Hodges, MD

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz

Becki Streit

Michele Suedbeck, MS

Stephanie Weller, MD

Rachel Wood, MAT, CCC-SLP/L

Collaboration Board

Amy McCormack, Chair

Penny Wallingford, Vice Chair

Gordon Hellwig, Treasurer

Chris Miller, Secretary

Susie Breitenstein

Michelle Adams Harton

Bernadette Hicks

Rick Jasculca

Laura Jordahl

Elizabeth Lippitt

Carollina Song

Becki Streit

Anne Warden

David Weindling

Founders Board

Eric Gershenson

Catherine Hart

Joan White

Developmental Screening Corner

Opportunity for Developmental Screening Support!

Shannon Ellison, M.Ed, the Collaboration's Developmental Screening Coordinator, continues to work with community physicians. **The Collaboration for Early Childhood wants to assist medical providers and practices (pediatric and family medicine) in Oak Park or River Forest** to be able to enhance developmental screening opportunities for our children and meet new developmental and social-emotional screening requirements.

**To receive this valuable developmental and social-emotional screening support for your practice, contact:
Shannon Ellison
708-613-6122 or sellison@collab4kids.org**

ASQ-3 and ASQ: SE-2 are research-based, standardized, valid and reliable developmental screening tools. They are designed to identify those things that children CAN do, but also can identify areas of development where children may benefit from further assessment and possibly additional support. They DO NOT provide diagnoses.

ASQ-3 focuses on each child's global development, for children ages 1-66 months.

ASQ: SE-2 examines the social and emotional competence of children ages 1-72 months.

Introducing: The Parenting Resource Program

In the spring of 2016, the Collaboration for Early Childhood started a process to more fully understand the interest and needs of parents and guardians of young children in the area. The Collaboration conducted a parenting resource and experience survey, with over 400 parents responding. The results of the survey showed a majority of parents are interested in learning more about their child's social-emotional development. In January, the Collaboration hired a Parenting Resource Coordinator. The new coordinator, Jennifer Little, focuses on meeting the needs of parents, while working with the Collaboration's partners to better educate parents on the resources available in the community and where to find them. This includes better communication with parents about the importance of development screenings, what tools are available, how to use them and where to go for answers.

Jennifer looks forward to working with the Physicians Network to assist doctors to meet the needs of parents in the Oak Park and River Forest communities.

**To connect families with local area resources, contact:
Jennifer Little
708-613-6122 or jlittle@collab4kids.org**

To read the full results of the survey and strategic framework for our Parenting Resource Program visit: www.collab4kids.org/ourwork/parent-information-support/

Our mission is to make sure that all children (birth to age 5) in our local community arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed and eager to learn.

Physicians Network
Oak Park Village Hall
123 Madison St., Room 209
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-613-6122; 708-434-1259 fax
www.collab4kids.org

Collaboration for
Early Childhood
Strong Start, Bright Future

