

Children's Occupational Therapy and The Sensational Thinking Project



The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Delivered as part of The Sensational Thinking Project ©

THE
great north
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Healthcare at its best
with people at our heart

Introduction and rationale

Diagnosis rates

The percentage of children receiving an autism diagnosis (79% in 2019)

Wait times

Children joining the waiting list for an Autism assessment will wait approximately 2 years. After diagnosis this will almost always generate a referral to Occupational Therapy for sensory processing differences which impact upon their function. They would then wait on the occupational therapy waiting list for a further extended period of time, during which time sensory processing differences may impact their physical, social and emotional development.

Sensory Differences

Extreme levels of sensory differences are present in ~95% autistic children. (Malory, C. Keehn, B 2021)

5-15% of school aged children who do not have an autism diagnosis experience sensory differences (Reynolds, et al, 2008)

Data Supplied by Dr Helen Leonard.

Year	No. of referrals	No. of assessments
2012	36	?
2013	48	?
2014	65	67
2015	78	84
2016	125	94
2017	137	93
2018	134	114
2019	190	142
2020	135*	119
2021	161*	117
2022	218	Not yet calculated

*Referrals affected by pandemic and children not being seen by nursery staff and HVs.

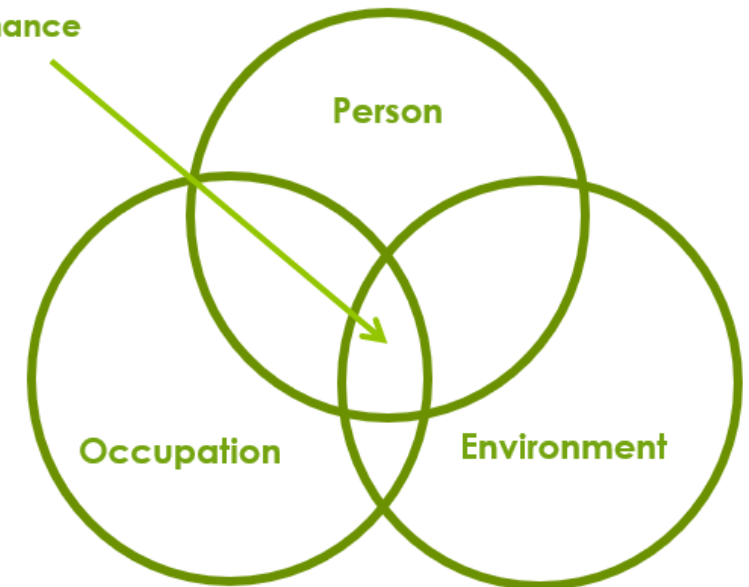


Objective

- Prior to 2018 the community children's Occupational Therapy Team **did not** accept referrals for children with sensory processing differences.
- In 2018, with support from our Team Lead these referrals were accepted which resulted in over 400% increase in referrals.
- In response to this The Sensational Thinking Project was created to offer key stakeholders access to sensory information sessions delivered by sensory integration trained occupational therapists.

This approach enabled parents, carers, school staff and practitioners to have a greater understanding of sensory processing and how to reduce potential impact upon the child's function and participation (occupational performance).

Occupational
Performance



Christiansen and Baum (1985)



Funding

Funding received from:

GNCH Foundation Bright Ideas Fund
Newcastle United Football Club
Newcastle Hospitals Charity
Team Evie
Proctor and Gamble
Climate Emergency Fund



In 2021 The Sensational Thinking Project received considerable funding from NHS England which was to be used to begin looking at how we could make our hospital environment more sensory safe.



Bobby our Occupational Therapy and Sensational Thinking Mascot



Progress Update



The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals
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Sensory Garden



Specimen Plants Purchased

<p>Acer Ginnal Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Acer Palmatum Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Acer Sango Kaku Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Amelanchier lamarckii Height: 100cm Flower: White Foliage: Green Fruit: Black Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: White - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Betula japonensis Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Cercidiphyllum luteum Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>
<p>Cornus mas Height: 100cm Flower: White Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: White - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Cornus ovata Height: 100cm Flower: White Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: White - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Cornus monspeliensis Height: 100cm Flower: White Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: White - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Hesperaloe parviflora Height: 100cm Flower: Red Foliage: Green Fruit: Black Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Red - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Ilex crenata Height: 100cm Flower: White Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: White - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Magnolia salicifolia Height: 100cm Flower: White Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: White - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>
<p>Molue torquosa Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Corymbium speciosum Height: 100cm Flower: White Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: White - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Panicum virgatum Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Panicum virgatum Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Panicum virgatum Height: 100cm Flower: Yellow Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: Yellow - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>	<p>Muscadivium Height: 100cm Flower: White Foliage: Green Fruit: Red Plant: Full sun, Partial shade Notes: - Native: No - Mature Height: 10-15m - Winter Interest: 10-15m - Flower Colour: White - Flowering Time: Spring - Foliage: Green</p>

SouthernGreen



Progress Update

The Sensational Thinking Workbook and Bobby's Big Day Out

Given to parents and carers as part of the 2 x 2hr Sensational Home Sessions along with a Sensational Workbook.



Common Themes from Feedback

Sensational Practitioner Training should be made mandatory for all staff

Understanding why my child e.g hums, jumps spins gags



Parent's describe feeling more confident

The interactive aspect of the training was enjoyable, interesting and engaging

Parents on the Sensational Home session said they wish they'd known this sensory base information earlier

[Celebrating 5 years of Newcastle's Sensational Thinking Project](#)
- Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk)



Next Steps

- Regular sensational practitioner sessions will be offered across both acute sites to all staff.
- We are in discussions with the ICB to explore how we can make the sensational home sessions accessible to all via the children and family hubs.
- Interest in our project have been received from other occupational therapy teams which is currently the early stages of exploration.
- Occupational Therapy to remain the driving force behind the forthcoming sensory garden which will be used for experiences such as children's participation in therapeutic horticulture, sensory story time and access for children currently accessing community occupational therapy.



Newcastle Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service

Service Delivery Model 2023



Specialist

Individual Specialist Intervention

One handed Therapy Intervention (OTI)

Technical support for children's equipment

Enhanced Rehab Project

OT Specific projects

OT and MDT collaborative projects

Targeted

PAT Dogs

Bobby's little explorers

Fun food Friday

Develop -mental Pathway

Selective Eating

Developmental checklist

Sensational home training

Life skills group

Bike skills group

Bobby's Big Day Out

Bobby's bags

Universal

Sensational Practitioner training

Sensational school training

Trust website content e.g. Bobby's top tips

Sensory stories on wards

Acute environmental adjustments e.g. bathroom, playroom

Don't Delay The play

References

- GERMANI, T. *et al.* **Brief Report: Assessment of Early Sensory Processing in Infants at High-Risk of Autism Spectrum Disorder** *Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders*. [S. l.: s. n.]. DOI 10.1007/s10803-014-2175-x. Disponível em: <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=sso&db=pbh&AN=99255261&site=eds-live>. Acesso em: 4 ago. 2023.
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists. Occupational therapy: Unlocking the potential of children and young people Available at: <https://www.rcot.co.uk/sites/default/files/ILSM%20Children%27s%20report%20A4%208pp%20D5.pdf> Accessed 05/08/23
- Mallory, C. Keehn, B. Implications of Sensory Processing and Attentional Differences Associated With Autism in Academic Settings: An Integrative Review. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. Vol. 12. (2021) <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2021.695825/full>

