

Sensory and Physical Difficulties

Definition

Sensory needs, which can be hearing loss and visual impairment or sensory processing difficulties and physical difficulties, can occur for a variety of reasons, eg. congenital conditions, injury or disease. The important consideration is the degree to which the difficulties impact on a pupil's ability to access learning opportunities.

Hearing Loss

- Hearing loss can be sensorineural, conductive or mixed.
- The levels of hearing loss can be mild, moderate, severe or profound.

Vision Loss

- Visual impairment is an eye condition that cannot be fully corrected by glasses or contact lenses.
- The levels of vision can be mild, moderate, severe or profound.

Multisensory Impairment

- Multisensory impairment occurs when there is a hearing loss and visual impairment, which are both educationally significant although they may be at different levels.

Sensory Processing Difficulty

Our bodies and the environment send our brain information through our senses. We process and organise this information so that we feel comfortable and secure. When a child has difficulty coping with these demands, they may have sensory processing difficulties.

A child may be under-sensitive or over-sensitive in the following five areas:

- Proprioception
- Vestibular
- Auditory
- Oral Sensory
- Tactile

Physical Difficulty

Physical or medical injuries can exist for a variety of reasons, eg. congenital conditions, injury or disease.

A pupil with a physical difficulty may have a diagnosed medical condition which affects them physically. However, there may be an undiagnosed condition where the pupil displays delayed development or impairment with their physical ability.

Your child may need support with:

- Vision



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- Hearing
- Gross-motor co-ordination
- Fine-motor co-ordination