

## **Sensory Integration and Autism Spectrum Disorder**

3 CE HOURS / .3 CEUs

### **PDH Academy Course #OT-1706**

#### **Course Abstract**

This course focuses on the theory of Ayres Sensory Integration (ASI) and its application to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It opens with an overview of ASD and the central nervous system, reviews ASI, and discusses relevant Occupational Therapy assessment and intervention strategies. Case studies are provided.

Target audience: Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants (no prerequisites).

*NOTE: Links provided within the course material are for informational purposes only. No endorsement of processes or products is intended or implied.*



This course is offered for 0.3 CEUs (Intermediate level; Category 2 – Occupational Therapy Process: Evaluation; Category 2 – Occupational Therapy Process: Intervention; Category 2 – Occupational Therapy Process: Outcomes).

The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA.

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#### **Learning Objectives**

At the end of this course, learners will be able to:

- Recognize elements of autism spectrum disorder and the central nervous system
- Differentiate between key sensory systems
- Identify components of Ayres Sensory Integration
- Differentiate between types of sensory integration dysfunction
- Recall assessment methods and intervention strategies pertaining to sensory integration function in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

#### **Timed Topic Outline**

I. Autism Spectrum Disorder (5 minutes)

II. Overview of the Central Nervous System (5 minutes)

III. Key Sensory Systems: Identification, Definitions, and Function (10 minutes)

Vestibular System, Proprioceptive System, Tactile System, Somatosensory System, Other Sensory Systems

IV. Ayres Sensory Integration Theory (5 minutes)

V. Types of Sensory Integration Dysfunction (25 minutes)

Sensory Modulation Dysfunction, Sensory Discrimination and Perception Problems, Vestibular-Bilateral Problems, Praxis Problems, Sensory Seeking Behaviors

VI. Sensory Processing and Participation (5 minutes)

- VII. Assessment of Sensory Integration Function in Children with Autism (20 minutes)
- VIII. Sensory Integration (SI) Intervention Strategies for Children with Autism (45 minutes)
  - Tactile Defensiveness, Gravitational Insecurity, Tactile Discrimination, Proprioception, Visual Perceptual, Praxis; Using Sensory Equipment
- IX. Case Studies (45 minutes)
- X. Conclusion, Additional Resources, References, and Exam (15 minutes)

**Delivery & Instructional Method; Completion Requirements**

Distance Learning – Independent. Correspondence/internet text-based self-study, including a provider-graded multiple choice final exam.

*To earn continuing education credit for this course, you must achieve a passing score of 80% on the final exam.*

**Registration & Cancellation**

Visit [www.pdhtherapy.com](http://www.pdhtherapy.com) to register for online courses and/or request correspondence courses.

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**Accessibility and/or Special Needs Concerns?**

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**Course Author Bio & Disclosure**

Jeryl D. Benson, EdD, OTR/L, earned a BS in Occupational Therapy and a MS in Motor Development from the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her doctorate in Education from Duquesne University. She has over 25 years of clinical experience in the area of pediatrics and school based occupational therapy practice. She has worked with a variety of disabilities including autism/PDD, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, and intellectual developmental disabilities in both public and private schools, as well as outpatient practice. She has advanced training in the Neurodevelopmental Treatment Approach, certification to administer the Sensory Integration & Praxis Test, is a certified infant massage instructor, is TEACCH trained, and has been Board Certified in Pediatrics through AOTA.

DISCLOSURES: Financial – Jeryl D. Benson received a stipend as the author of this course. Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists.