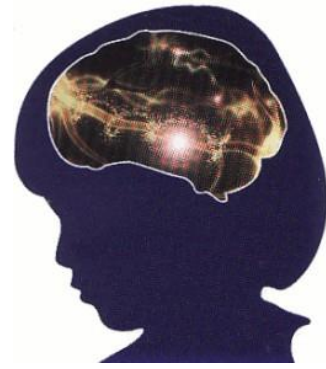


# Sensory Processing Disorders

Primitive reflexes appear at birth or soon after, and are automatic movements directed from the brainstem and require no cortical involvement (thought). They are needed for survival and development in the womb and in the early months of life, and are vital in a baby's neurological development. However, as higher more sophisticated centres of the brain begin to mature, these primitive reflexes become a nuisance and must be integrated in order for proper neurological organization of the child's brain to develop. This integration is necessary to free the higher centres of the brain for academic learning.

If the primitive reflexes are retained past the first few months of life they can interfere with social, academic, and motor learning.



Children with learning disorders, ADHD, Autism Spectrum, and various other neurodevelopmental disorders are known to have retained primitive reflexes contributing to their symptoms and level of dysfunction. Research in the U.K. and Sweden, has shown that retained primitive reflexes may seriously affect subsequent behaviour, motor control, sensory perception, eye-hand co-ordination, learning and intellect.

The signs and symptoms listed here are to help parents identify those children who may benefit from a neurological developmental screening test. A child may display one or more of these symptoms in varying degrees. If your child fits one or more of the descriptions listed below, or should you feel your child may benefit from a neurological developmental screening test for other reasons, then please speak to your chiropractor.

- Difficulty reading, writing or spelling. Commonly misplace or reverse letters or numbers in a word.
- Poor hand writing and/or noticeable difficulty with fine motor skills (ie. picking up pins or pebbles and putting them into a cup).
- Difficulty forming sentences (thoughts onto paper).
- Difficulty with basic maths.
- Speech difficulties and poor balance and/or messy eaters.
- Exceptionally clumsy child – poor motor coordination and hand-eye movements.
- Delayed expressive language – commonly shortening words or making up words.
- Difficulty understanding spoken commands and being able to execute them (unable to remember 3 basic tasks).
- Difficulty transferring written work from the white-board onto their own workbook.
- Visual or auditory difficulties.
- Sudden change in behaviour at school.
- Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Aspergers, Rett's, Childhood Disintegrative disorder.
- Diagnosis of Autism.
- Poor social interaction for their age.
- Delayed verbal communication skills.
- Diagnosis of ADD or ADHD.
- Hyperactivity.
- Recurrent inattention.

The good news is that, due to the neuroplasticity of a child's brain, especially in early childhood, improvements in the child's neurological function and subsequent development, in nearly all cases, can be achieved. For more information, please talk to your chiropractor.

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