

Exploring the patterns of sensory processing in a population of children with substantiated child abuse

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Take Two provides a range of therapeutic services to children in the child protection system, aged 0-18 years living in Victoria who have experienced significant developmental trauma.

Children who have experienced significant ongoing abuse and trauma are particularly vulnerable to the development of maladaptive self-regulatory strategies negatively impacting their capacity to heal and to develop relationships with others.

Understanding the sensory needs of our clients, guides regulatory interventions, facilitating greater occupational engagement.

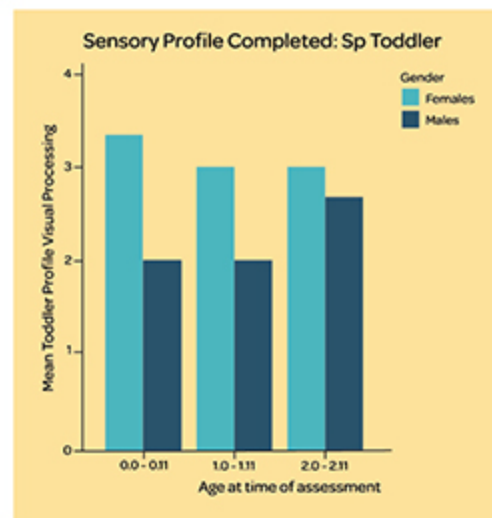
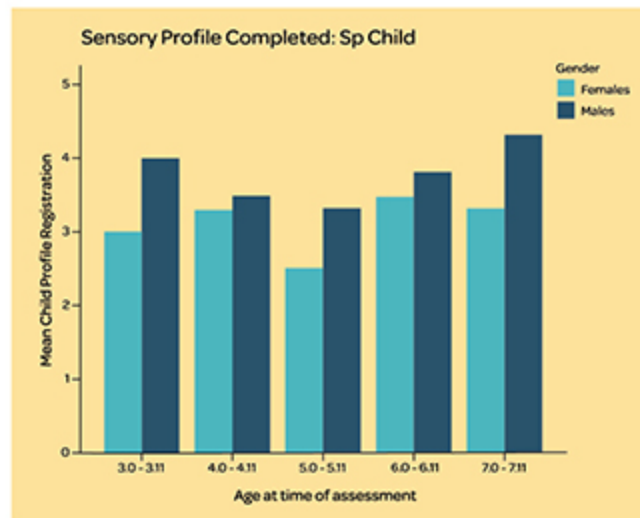
Findings

Female toddlers (0-3 years) responded more to visual experiences compared with males of the same age ($p=.02$).

Male children ($p=.02$) aged 4-7 years, required greater sensory input before responding, and scored higher ($p=.03$) on the overactivity and scholastic/language (0.03) scales of the HoNOSCA

Aboriginal children required less sensory input to trigger a response.

Older children (7-7.11 years) were more likely ($p=.006$) to demonstrate the need for greater sensory input through the use of their body, such as draping over furniture or becoming tired easily.



Children aged 7 months to 7.10 years ($n=52$) were assessed using the carer rated Sensory Profile (Dunn 2014), between Feb 2016 – March 2017.

75% children in foster care

23% children identified as ATSI

- 1 Much less than others
- 2 Less than others
- 3 Just like the majority of others
- 4 More than others
- 5 Much more than others

What next?

Further exploration of sensory processing patterns and links with early experiences.
Evaluate sensory interventions and their relationship to children's engagement in meaningful occupations.