

How Your Child's Sensory Processing Issues May Change Over Time



Kids don't outgrow sensory processing issues. But the signs change as kids get older. Here's what you might see.

Baby

- Feels limp or stiff when held
- Doesn't want to be cuddled
- Has problems eating or sleeping
- Can't calm self; is extremely fussy
- Constantly needs to touch people or objects

Grade-schooler

- May play too rough with others
- Appears awkward in social settings
- Has trouble with writing utensils, buttons, zippers, etc.
- Has a hard time making transitions between places or activities

High-schooler

- Feels anxious or depressed in social settings
- Is resistant to changes in routine or trying new things
- Has trouble staying focused
- Is slow to complete tasks
- Has difficulty understanding and responding to physical touch, which can cause trouble with dating

Preschooler

- Is fussy about how clothes and shoes feel
- Constantly moves around; can't seem to get comfortable
- Has frequent temper tantrums
- Is oversensitive to smells, lights and noise
- Finds the playground overwhelming

Middle-schooler

- Is afraid to try new things
- Acts impulsively
- Doesn't finish tasks; is easily distracted and fidgety
- Struggles to understand personal space
- Has clumsy, uncoordinated movements; has trouble playing sports

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