

Treatment of Motor Issues in Children with Sensory Dysfunction

Liesa M. Ritchie-Persaud, PT, DPT, PCS

Faculty

Liesa M. Ritchie-Persaud, PT, DPT, PCS is a licensed physical therapist with 37 years' experience in the field of pediatric therapy. Liesa is the owner of "Know To Change," an organization dedicated to advancing the knowledge and skills of clinicians in pediatric practice. She has educated healthcare professionals in advanced treatment techniques, performed specialized practical training and provided consultative services. Liesa has worked in private pediatric clinics, schools, private homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities, as well as facilities overseas. Dr. Ritchie-Persaud is a Credentialed Clinical Instructor. She received her Associate degree in 1993 and worked as a Physical Therapist Assistant while earning her B.S. in Organizational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University in Tulsa, OK. Dr. Ritchie-Persaud earned her Master's degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Findlay in Findlay, OH in 2003. She received her post-graduate Doctorate from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in 2011 and is a Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy. Liesa's wide range of clinical experience, organizational leadership, proficient teaching skills, motivation to improve the standard of care and enthusiasm and passion for her field make her an exciting and compelling instructor.

Disclosure: Financial: Liesa M. Ritchie-Persaud receives a speaking fee from Education Resources for this course.
Non-Financial: She has no relevant nonfinancial relationships to disclose.

About this Live Webinar

Children with sensory dysfunction are frequently referred to physical therapy with family concerns of poor coordination, weakness, hypo/hypertonia, impaired balance and difficulty with motor skills. They are often labeled as awkward, lazy or clumsy, and have difficulty physically keeping up with their peers, or performing basic tasks such as running, jumping, and stairs.

Therapists are aware that the difficulty with these skills is related to sensory dysfunction, but the sensory-based element of movement is an area that often eludes physical therapists, resulting in frustrating interactions and inferior outcomes. However, synthesizing gross motor function with a sensory system foundation can improve outcomes for this population.

This course provides practical insight into therapeutic interaction with children with both sensory system and gross motor dysfunction. Intervention strategies are provided, with the purpose of utilizing the sensory systems to effect change in gross motor performance.

This course does NOT aim to teach sensory processing integration therapy. Rather, it proposes how various essential components of "sensory-aware" intervention may be combined to facilitate purposeful effective results in the context of physical therapy treatment sessions.

The practical application of didactic information by way of simple techniques address the following obstacles to efficient gross motor performance: Sensory dysfunction | Insufficient postural control | Foundational weakness | Instability and related poor mobility and incoordination | Poor motor planning

Objectives

- Describe interdependent dynamics of sensory systems as they relate to gross motor function.
- Identify specific areas of sensory dysfunction in children referred to physical therapy for gross motor challenges.
- Learn how to apply skilled clinical reasoning in sensorimotor therapeutic interventions.
- Develop sensory-based strategies to increase postural control, strength, coordination, motor planning, stability and mobility.
- Explain evidence-based rationale for chosen therapeutic techniques to improve caregiver, team, and administrative communication and understanding.

Schedule – Day 1 6:00-10:15 pm EST (US)

- 5:40-6:00** Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 6:00-8:00** The significance of the vestibular, visual & proprioceptive systems to gross motor function:
- Vestibular functioning & muscle tone
 - Visual dysfunction & its effects on postural control
 - Proprioception & movement coordination
- 8:00-8:15** Break
- 8:15-10:15** Sensory based physical challenges:
- Dyspraxia & Postural Disorder
 - Gait abnormalities
 - Common comorbidities

Schedule – Day 2 6:00-9:45 pm EST (US)

- 5:40-6:00** Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 6:00-8:00** Assessment of vestibular, visual & proprioceptive performance:
- Post rotary nystagmus
 - Prone extension & supine flexion
 - Modified Clinical Test of Sensory Interaction in Balance
 - The Kaplan Non-Verbal Battery (test of vision)
 - Comprehensive Observations of Proprioception
- 8:00-9:45** Video Case analysis and Interactive discussion

Schedule – Day 3 6:00-9:45 pm EST (US)

- 5:40-6:00** Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 6:00-7:00** Improved sensory function & subsequent gross motor ability:
- Foundational sensory competence
 - Development of sensorimotor function
- 7:00-8:30** Utilization of each sensory system to support motor skills in therapy sessions. Formulating and Implementing Treatment:
- Vestibular contributions during physical activity
 - Vision activities
 - Proprioception & motor development
 - Balance as a multi-system outcome
 - Video activity examples
- 8:30-9:45** Strategies to Increase Gross Motor Skill:
- Postural control & Coordination
 - Strength & Motor planning
 - Stability & Mobility

Audience

Clinical Level: Intermediate physical and occupational therapists who work with children in school, at home or in the clinic.

"Liesa's knowledge and experience in addressing more complex sensory and motor developmental issues shines through in her presentations. Her passion is contagious. The webinar was professionally run with seamless connection and engagement with participants."

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Credits

This course meets the criteria for 11 contact hours (1.1 CEUs), Intermediate Level.



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Approved provider of the FL Board of Occupational Therapy-CE Broker – 13 hrs. This course meets the approval of the TX Board of OT Examiners.

Approved by the FL Physical Therapy Association for 13 continuing education contact hours. Approved by the MD Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Approved by the MN Board of Physical Therapy. Approved by the NJ Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Approved sponsor by the State of IL Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for Physical Therapy for 13 contact hours. Application has been made to the Illinois EI Training Program. Approved provider by the NY State Board of Physical Therapy for 13 contact hours (1.3 CEUs).

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11 hours of this course qualify towards the discipline-specific hours for the 20-hour requirement for NDTA re-certification. They do NOT qualify towards the 8-hour NDTA Instructor requirement for re-certification.

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Webinar Dates and Times

October 15, 20 and 22, 2025

5:40 pm EST • 4:40 pm CST • 3:40 pm MST • 2:40 pm PST (US)

Registration is for all three sessions. Zoom log-in instructions and course materials will be emailed/added to your ERI account 5-7 days prior to the first date of the webinar.



\$389 fee. **LIMITED ENROLLMENT** Cancellation will be accepted until 14 days prior to the start date of the course, minus a \$75 Administration Fee. There will be NO REFUNDS after this 14-day deadline. We encourage you to register online!

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October 15, 20 and 22, 2025

Course Registration Form

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