



## VISION

The Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation is the world leader in research, education, and advocacy for Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), a neurological condition that affects the way sensations are turned into behaviors.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the lives of children with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) and their families by conducting research, educating caregivers, pediatric professionals, and educators, and empowering scientists throughout the world to study the diagnosis and treatment of SPD.

## WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SPD

- SPD is a complex disorder of the brain that affects the way sensations are experienced and organized.
- Research indicates that at least 1 in 6 children experiences sensory challenges sufficient to disrupt their academic, social, and/or emotional development. That's about 16% of the childhood population – 4 or 5 children in every classroom.
- In children with autistic spectrum disorders, the incidence of SPD is estimated to be even higher – at least 80%. SPD is believed to occur in about 30% of gifted children as well.
- The disorder has unique symptoms not explained by other known conditions and is often misdiagnosed.
- Studies indicate that occupational therapy is an effective intervention for treating children with SPD.
- Children with SPD who reach adulthood without receiving treatment continue to be affected by sensory challenges.

## WHAT WE DO ABOUT SPD

- **RESEARCH** the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of SPD and mobilize research groups nationwide to expand knowledge about SPD with scientific study
- **PUBLISH** groundbreaking research in medical and other journals
- **SPONSOR** two international educational symposiums each year to spread the word about the latest breakthroughs in research and treatment
- **MENTOR** clinicians from around the world in innovative SPD assessment and intervention
- **TEACH** families and professionals about SPD through an eLearning program of online classes taught by experts in the field
- **SPONSOR** the most comprehensive SPD site on the worldwide web
- **ADVOCATE** for recognition of SPD as a separate and valid disorder in diagnostic manuals including the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*
- **CHAMPION** intervention, accommodation, and accurate information about SPD in schools, health care practices, homes, and wherever people live, play, work, or seek services
- **PARTNER** with the prestigious STAR Center in Denver to promote research-based treatment and education for “sensational kids” and families