

A Preliminary Study To Compare The Sensory Processing Abilities Of Adults With Mild Intellectual Disabilities

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Abstract

The “Life is a sensory experience”(Corem, Porac and Ward 1984). During every moment of our life we experience a whole lot of sensory events. In fact, the very experience of being human is imbedded in the sensory events of everyday life.

The objective of the study is to identify the sensory processing abilities of adults with Mild Intellectual Disability using sensory profile and to compare the sensory processing abilities of adults with Mild Intellectual Disability.

Thirty adults with Mild Intellectual Disability (MID) between the age group of eighteen to thirty-five were selected for the study. Adult sensory profile questionnaire developed by Winnie Dunn and Catana E. Brown (2002) were administered. The questionnaire and the five point scoring were explained by the Occupational therapist to the MID adults/Instructors/Parents and any queries were duly answered. MID adults were encouraged to fill the form completely with assistance. Completed forms were collated for statistical analysis. The duration of the study was one year.

Sensory profile manual and Sensory profile questionnaire sheets were used. The score key 1- Almost never, 2- Seldom, 3-Occasionally, 4-Frequently, and 5-Almost Always.

The study is based on Different subject design involving three conditions. Non-parametric and parametric test were used to analyse the outcome.

The result indicates that the sensory processing ability of adults with Mild Intellectual Disability differs in the following items of the sensory profile; Taste/Smell processing, Movement processing, Visual processing, Touch processing, Activity Level and Auditory Processing. The results were analysed through quadrant grid of the sensory profile. There are four quadrants; quadrant one results indicates low registration, quadrant 2 results indicates sensation seeking, quadrant three results indicates sensory sensitivity and quadrant four results indicates sensation avoiding. The raw score of each quadrant were compared with the quadrant summary chart of the sensory profile.

Identifying and addressing sensory processing problems is an integral part of occupational therapy intervention in adults with MID. Sensory profile is useful in identifying the sensory processing abilities of adults with Mild Intellectual Disability and also contributes to the program planning.