

Sensory Integration 1: Foundations and Neuroscience

Reflective Piece

At the end of this module, I have enhanced my knowledge in the following areas:

Through demonstrating commitment to the neuroscience course I have noticed a change in my attitude. The in-depth knowledge I have gained has increased my confidence when speaking about this complex area. Having had the opportunity to learn about Sensory Integration (SI), this has increased my feelings of responsibility to promote and learn more about SI. I have an increased awareness and concern of the need for further research in this area and the impact this could have on individuals who might greatly benefit from SI intervention. Through an increase in my understanding of SI dysfunction, I feel I am able to be more responsive and adaptive to the service user's needs.

My professional skills have been influenced through the completion of this module. It has improved my creative thinking skills within therapy and group sessions. For example, providing fidgets during group work to support the patient's ability to engage. It has also improved my formulation skills through acknowledging the potential of an SI dysfunction. This has led to an improvement in my communication abilities through speaking more effectively during these discussions. Due to the understanding of a different perspective, I am more aware and sensitive to the potential SI needs my patients may have. However, due to the lack of staff support with SI qualifications within my workplace, I have been unable to further increase my knowledge and understanding of SI through other people's experiences.

The patients for whom I am responsible and the service will benefit from an understanding in SI. Due to being the only staff member on the unit with an SI awareness, there is a great need for wider education around this topic. Therefore, I will be completing a staff development presentation to aid staff understanding in this area. This will benefit the service user, as a large

percentage suffer with modulation disorders, which the staff currently have difficulty understanding and providing the most appropriate support. Through empowering the staff, I am hoping to see an increase in flexibility in thinking and appropriate patient care. Ultimately the patients will benefit from this care and feel validated and understood.

My colleagues will notice a change in how I speak about patients during multidisciplinary team meetings. I will provide an in-depth explanation to possible modulation disorders and relate these to behaviours displayed by the patients. This will lead to more critical discussions with staff members. Additionally, during the assessment review process I will provide a detailed report with reference to SI, if appropriate. My colleagues will also notice an increase in confidence when completing and feeding back completed sensory profile reports, which will result in clear action plans and possible interventions.

The barriers I may encounter when speaking more frequently about SI, is the potential for a misunderstanding of certain SI terminology from staff, which may lead to staff being reluctant or unwilling to implement potential changes. My suggested solution as I speak more about SI, is to ensure I provide a number of staff development sessions, to enable as many staff to attend as possible. A PowerPoint presentation will be made accessible to all staff members through email and the shared drive. Additionally, it will be important to produce an SI definition sheet with the key words and their meanings, which will be placed in each office.