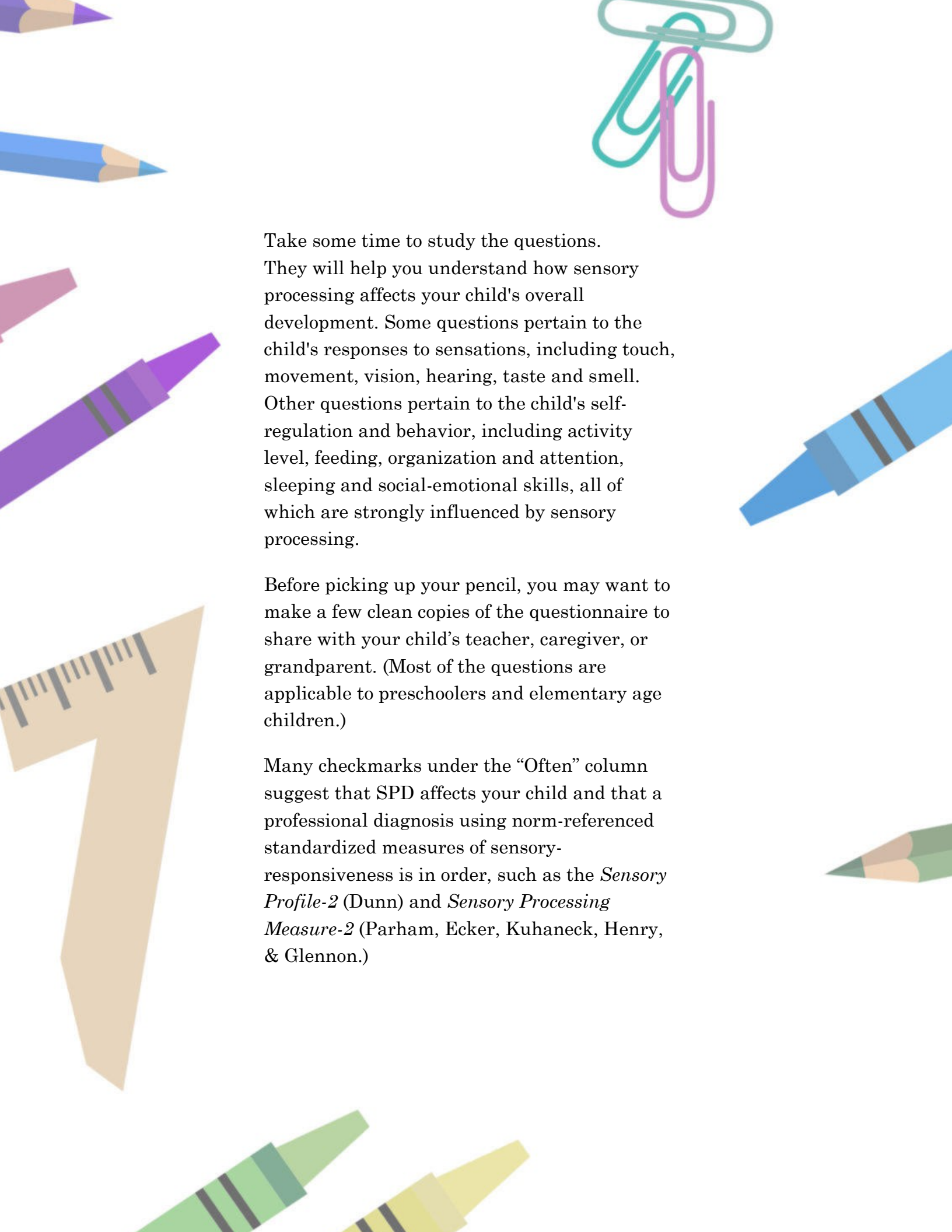




## Sample Sensory-Motor History Questionnaire

Below is a sample questionnaire similar to those that parents or teachers complete when a child begins to be evaluated by an occupational therapist. A questionnaire helps the therapist learn about the child's sensory-motor history. After analyzing it, the therapist determines whether the child needs treatment and, if so, uses it to design an individualized program, or a sensory-enriched life.

This questionnaire was designed by Sharon A. Cermak, EdD, at Sargent College, Boston University, in the 1990s prior to the publication of standardized, norm-referenced assessments of sensory processing. It is applicable to all children today, although its original purpose was to examine the sensory processing characteristics of children adopted from Eastern European countries. The questionnaire is based on the work of A. Jean Ayres, PhD, Winnie Dunn, PhD, and the therapists at OTA-The Koomar Center. It is abbreviated here with their gracious permission.

The page features several decorative elements: a teal and purple paper clip at the top right; a blue pencil at the top left; a purple pencil on the left side; a blue pencil on the right side; a large tan ruler on the bottom left; a green pencil at the bottom left; and a yellow pencil at the bottom center.

Take some time to study the questions. They will help you understand how sensory processing affects your child's overall development. Some questions pertain to the child's responses to sensations, including touch, movement, vision, hearing, taste and smell. Other questions pertain to the child's self-regulation and behavior, including activity level, feeding, organization and attention, sleeping and social-emotional skills, all of which are strongly influenced by sensory processing.

Before picking up your pencil, you may want to make a few clean copies of the questionnaire to share with your child's teacher, caregiver, or grandparent. (Most of the questions are applicable to preschoolers and elementary age children.)

Many checkmarks under the "Often" column suggest that SPD affects your child and that a professional diagnosis using norm-referenced standardized measures of sensory-responsiveness is in order, such as the *Sensory Profile-2* (Dunn) and *Sensory Processing Measure-2* (Parham, Ecker, Kuhaneck, Henry, & Glennon.)

# Sensory-Motor History Questionnaire for Parents of Children and Young Adults

*Prepared by Sharon Cermak, EdD, OTR, et al.*

## SENSES

Touch			
Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Avoid or dislike getting hands messy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Become upset when face is washed?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Become upset when having hair combed or fingernails cut?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prefer long-sleeved clothing or jackets, even when it is hot?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Avoid wearing clothes made of certain fabrics?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have trouble changing clothing when seasons change?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Avoid going barefoot, esp. in sand or grass?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Become irritated by tags on clothing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complain if socks are not on correctly?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complain about bumps on bed sheets?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seem to crave being held or cuddled?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Express discomfort when touched in a friendly way by others?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prefer to touch others rather than be touched by them?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tend to bump or push others?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seem excessively ticklish?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seem overly sensitive to pain, and be bothered by small cuts?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Show an unusual need to touch certain textures, surfaces, toys?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mouth objects or clothing often?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have difficulty judging how much strength to use, e.g., petting animals with too much force?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Movement			
Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Become anxious or distressed when feet leave the ground?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Avoid climbing or jumping?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Appear reluctant to participate in sports and motor games?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seem fearful of catching balls?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Show fear of falling or heights?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dislike elevators or escalators?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dislike riding in a car?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dislike activities where head is upside down (as with hair washing) or when lifted overhead (as in somersaults)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Love to be tipped upside down or lifted overhead?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seek out all kinds of movement activities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enjoy merry-go-rounds and fast rides?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jump often and for long time on beds or other bouncy surfaces?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Like to spin himself/herself?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rock his/her body or head?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bang head on purpose?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Throw him/herself against floor, wall or other people for fun?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take unusual risks during play?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Visual			
Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Become easily distracted by visual stimulation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Express discomfort at bright lights?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Avoid or have difficulty with direct eye contact?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have a hard time picking out a single object from many, such as finding a specific toy in a toy box?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Auditory			
Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Become distracted or have a problem when surrounded by a lot of noise?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respond negatively to unexpected or loud noises?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Like to make loud noises?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Taste & Smell			
Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Explore objects by smelling them?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seem bothered by smells that most other people do not notice?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chew or lick non-food items?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## SENSORY - RELATED SKILLS

Activity Level			
Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Tend to be especially active and always on the go?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tend to fidget excessively in a chair when eating or working?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tend to lack carefulness and to be impulsive?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seem aggressive in play?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Feeding

Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Need assistance to feed himself/herself?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tend to eat in a sloppy manner?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frequently spill liquids?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drool?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have trouble chewing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have trouble swallowing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have difficulty or dislike eating foods with lumps, such as chunky soups?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stuff or put too much food in his/her mouth at once?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Organization

Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Frequently lose things, such as homework or coat?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Get lost easily?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have difficulty tolerating changes in plans or expectations?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have difficulty changing from one activity to another?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Need extra assistance to get started with a task or activity?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Become easily distracted while working or playing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have a short attention span?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Sleeping

Does your child...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Have irregular sleep patterns?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wake frequently during the night?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have a difficult time falling asleep?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Require less sleep than other children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>