

Statement by SAISI on the use of the SIPT

Many questions are asked on the use of the SIPT in South Africa. SAISI is very aware of the increase in cost involved in the use of the SIPT. The rand/dollar exchange rate has largely contributed to the increase in costs. SAISI needs to state that WPS is providing the SIPT and SIPT materials to us at a discounted price and according to an agreement that was reached between WPS and SAISI. We appreciate and respect the fact that WPS has maintained this agreement for quite some time, as this agreement allows SAISI to provide the SIPT and SIPT materials at a much lower price to its members than when ordering it directly online from WPS. SAISI does not make any profit from selling the SIPT or SIPT materials to its members, in fact SAISI often absorbs the losses when there are fluctuations in the exchange rate.

As part of the Ayres 2020 Vision and under the leadership of Zoe Mailloux, a new test battery is currently in development namely the Evaluation of Ayres Sensory Integration (EASI). At this stage they are busy with the tactile tests to determine discriminative validity and item analysis. The praxis tests are also now ready to go through the same stage of development. There is also a group currently working on the identification of vestibular and proprioceptive test items and once that is done those test items will also go through the process of determining discriminative validity and item analysis.

Although we are really excited about the new EASI test and the fact that SAISI and its members will also be involved in the standardization process of the EASI tests the reality is that this instrument will only be available in 2020. The other reality is that although the aim is to provide this test at the lowest cost possible we at this time do not know what the costs will be and until the validity and reliability tests have not been done we will also not know whether the EASI will be of the same integrity as the SIPT. So at this time and date there is no other test but the SIPT that SAISI can use to train OT's with on the identification of patterns of SI dysfunction and also no other tests that can provide the clinician with the information that the SIPT can on a child's sensory integration function or dysfunction. SAISI is also committed to uphold our international standards of training in ASI according to the International Collaboration of Education in Ayres Sensory Integration (ICEASI) and on an international level the countries involved with ICEASI are also using the SIPT as the gold standard for training.

Compiled by Annamarie van Jaarsveld