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POSITION STATEMENT ON THE ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SENSORY INTEGRATION DIFFICULTIES

The following notice serves to provide the members of the occupational therapy profession and the public, including, but not exclusive to; parents, teachers, therapists, medical and paramedical professionals with SAISI's position and understanding of the assessment and treatment of children.

A child in this notice is described as an individual between the ages of 0 – 12 years.

SAISI prescribe the use of reliable, scientific assessment instruments in order to obtain client information. Standardized assessment tools are to be used alongside collateral information and researched clinical observations to determine the strengths and therapeutic needs of the child. This allows the therapist to design appropriate, individualized treatment goals to support the therapeutic intervention process. This intervention process should address the development of functional occupational performance based skills and adaptive behaviour.

SAISI promote the use of the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT). Internationally this test is recognised as the gold standard of assessment in the field of ASI®.

SAISI encourage the use of the Data-Driven Decision Making Process (Schaaf & Mailloux, 2015). This process supports a standardized and objective, outcomes based approach to the assessment and treatment of children.

ASI® assessment and treatment must be carried out by an occupational therapist qualified in Ayres Sensory Integration®.

Parents should be provided with information to enhance their understanding of the underlying sensory systems and processes involved in the holistic development of the child.

Therapists need to have face – face contact with parents and feedback on the child's therapeutic programme and progress needs to be provided on an ongoing basis. Parents must at all times, be recognised and included as part of the goal setting and therapeutic process of the child.

SAISI do not prescribe the use of generalised, non- standardised checklists and screening tools as methods of obtaining clinical information regarding the developmental, functional and behavioural status of a child.

SAISI do not condone the use of the SCSIT. The use of the SCSIT is unethical as it is outdated and no longer in use. The use thereof cannot be supported by SAISI. New research was conducted and the SIPT replaced the SCSIT. The SIPT is now acknowledged internationally as the gold standard and best practice for assessment in ASI®. SAISI acknowledge this and, in line with our vision, our members are expected to uphold this standard of excellence in assessment.