



SPD-Parent Connections Information and Application

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Sensory Processing Disorder-Parent Connections (SPD-PC) host or community resource. This application contains information about how we at the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation and you as a parent volunteer can work together to help sensational families.

SPD-PARENT CONNECTIONS

SPD-PC is a parent/volunteer activity of the Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)3 charity dedicated to SPD research, education, and advocacy.

The purposes of SPD-PC are:

- To provide a geographically diverse source of local support, information, and understanding to anyone who has Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) or who lives with someone with SPD.
- To provide community-based outlets for information about Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation activities and programs.
- To support the missions of the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation with fundraising and other activities.

BECOMING A HOST

The process of becoming a host includes the following steps:

- Reading this information closely to make sure you feel comfortable with the requirements of being a host or community resource.
- Sending your signed application to us by fax, mail, or scan. (Contact info on last page.)
- Communicating with our parent coordinator when she contacts you to answer any questions you have, discuss any concerns you or we may have, and learn more about you.
- Seeing your name and contact information on our website so people in your area can contact you.
- Joining the growing ranks of our SPD-Parent Connections volunteers around the world!

A WORD ABOUT FUNDRAISING

As a non-profit charity, the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation relies heavily upon donations to support its research, education, and advocacy programs, including SPD-Parent Connections.

It is our hope that, as a SPD-Parent Connections host, you will support the Foundation by organizing, facilitating, and/or supporting fundraising in your community either through one of our international sensory awareness events or by organizing events, campaigns, or activities of your own.

WHAT HOSTS DO FOR US

SPD-Parent Connections are provided on a local level by volunteers acting in one of two capacities:

- SPD-PC HOSTS:
 - Organize and conduct regularly scheduled meetings in their communities.
 - Respond to local inquiries about SPD and the SPD Foundation
 - Distribute information to parents about SPD, community resources, and other topics.
 - Conduct fundraising activities on behalf of the SPD Foundation.
- SPD COMMUNITY RESOURCES:
 - Respond to local inquiries about SPD and the SPD Foundation
 - Distribute information to parents about SPD, community resources, and other topics.
 - Support fundraising activities on behalf of the SPD Foundation.

Hosts and Community Resources may be family members of children with SPD, professionals who serve these families, or adults with Sensory Processing Disorder.

WHAT WE DO FOR HOSTS AND RESOURCES

The Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation supports SPD-Parent Connections volunteers by:

- Referring parents who contact us to SPD-PC groups in their areas.
- Publishing Host and Resource contact and meeting information on our website.
- Providing handouts, templates, and other forms and information you can download and print to promote sensory awareness, fundraisers, and SPD-PC activities.
- Providing an online community where you may network with other hosts to exchange information, ideas, questions, and answers.
- Providing a designated mailbox (parents@spdfoundation.net) where you may submit questions, requests, problems, and other matters for individual handling.
- Staffing SPD-PC operations with a parent coordinator to answer questions, supply materials, and otherwise support our Parent Connections hosts.

BENEFITS OF BEING AN SPD-PC HOST OR RESOURCE

- Being an activist for the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation, the only organization dedicated to the mission of SPD research, education, and advocacy
- The satisfaction of raising sensory awareness and improving the lives of other families living with Sensory Processing Disorder and other sensory challenges
- The opportunity to network with other host parent leaders nationwide and worldwide
- The support of an SPDF staff member to help you
- Free MEMBERSHIP in the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation

Visit spdfoundation.net/members to learn more about the benefits of your membership.

A LITTLE FINE PRINT

- We support the desire of parents to participate in any support networks they find helpful. However, we believe that taking on the responsibility of *hosting* a group may at times include significant time and effort. We request that SPD-PC Hosts refrain from simultaneously *leading* support groups in multiple organizations.
- We encourage the establishment of SPD-PC groups in as many communities as possible worldwide. However, if an existing group is already drawing members from your community, you may be asked to participate in that group until it reaches a size where two groups can be supported.
- We respect the right of all parents to pursue the interventions they personally feel are the most appropriate for their children. However, because the Foundation is a scientific organization, we require that SPD-PC volunteers acting or writing in their official capacity refrain from advocating or promoting therapies the Foundation does not endorse. (See The Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation Message below for specifics.)

SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDER (SPD) FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for children with SPD and their families by

- Conducting rigorous **research** into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of SPD.
- Providing **education** for those with SPD and for families, health care providers, policy makers, and the public.
- **Advocating** for diagnostic and public recognition of SPD.

The SPD Foundation is a Colorado 501(c) (3) public charity. Contributions are tax-deductible.

SPD-PARENT CONNECTIONS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of SPD-Parent Connections (SPD-PC) program is to support the mission of the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation by

- Establishing an international network of support groups where parents can help other parents meet the challenges of raising children with Sensory Processing Disorder.
- Providing support to the SPD Foundation in implementing its mission.

THE SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDER FOUNDATION MESSAGE

Sensory Processing Disorder (sometimes called “sensory integration dysfunction”) is a complex brain condition that creates difficulty in accurately detecting and/or interpreting sensory input and turning it into appropriate behavior.

As a matter of policy, the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation does not comment on specific treatment programs unless we have used, studied, and/or validated them, or there is published peer-reviewed research available on the method. To our knowledge, the only intervention for SPD that is validated by effectiveness research using rigorous scientific protocols is occupational therapy with a sensory integration approach (OT-SI). Therefore, this is the only intervention we endorse.

SPD-PARENT CONNECTIONS DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

The following disclaimer statement must appear on all written materials you develop for distribution. Materials supplied by the SPD Foundation directly or via download from the SPDF website are exempt:

Please note: SPD-Parent Connections groups are run by parent volunteers. Parents share their personal experiences related to Sensory Processing Disorder. All comments or advice are the opinions of parents and are not recommendations. Advice of a medical professional should be sought for diagnosis and treatment.

Questions, comments, or suggestions that may help other hosts? We’re here for you:

Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation

JoEllen Nikkel, parent coordinator

Parents@SPDFoundation.net

303.794.1182

RESPONSIBILITIES: By submitting this application, you agree to the following:

1. TO ADHERE to SPD Foundation policies whether contained in this document or in subsequent communications.
2. TO PROMOTE public knowledge and understanding of Sensory Processing Disorder by:
 - **Maintaining** a current email address on the SPD Foundation website where people may contact you (<http://spdfoundation.net/families.html>).
 - **Responding** to parent and other questions about SPD and resources in your community at your convenience but within a reasonable period of time (e.g., about as long as you'd want to wait if you were asking the question).
 - **Referring elsewhere** questions that are clinical in nature (e.g., about SPD symptoms, causes, prevalence, treatment, and other). "About SPD" and "Our Library" on our website, and/or Dr. Lucy Jane Miller's book, *Sensational Kids: Hope and Help for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD)* are recommended options.
 - **Including** the SPD-Parent Connections Disclaimer Statement on all written materials you develop for distribution.
3. HOSTS: TO CONDUCT public meetings by:
 - **Establishing** a regular date and time for SPD-PC meetings in your community.
 - **Holding** your meetings in public venues, such as libraries, community centers, or schools - NOT in private homes.
 - **Providing** the SPD Foundation with specific information about your meeting times, dates, and places for posting on the Foundation website.
 - **Stating** clearly at each meeting that SPD-Parent Connections does not provide medical advice or advocate therapies other than those we have researched and/or validated.
 - **Charging no admission** for monthly meetings except for payment to a guest speaker or to cover similar extraordinary costs.
 - **Selling, promoting, or representing no products or services** other than those available directly from the SPD Foundation.
 - **Informing** guest speakers they may not use SPD-PC meetings as a venue for recruiting new clients or promoting products.
 - **Announcing and enforcing** the prohibition on children attending meetings.
 - **Notifying us** immediately of any change in your meeting time, date, place, or frequency.
 - **Being available** by email and/or telephone to respond to questions and comments from parents in your service area.
2. TO SUSTAIN communication with the SPD Foundation by:
 - **Reading** all correspondence we send you by email and direct mail and responding in a timely fashion if specific feedback is requested.
 - **Notifying us immediately** of any change to your contact information and/or your ability to continue serving as a Host/Resource.
 - **Protecting** the privacy of any limited-access forum for SPD-PC leaders by never providing the password to anyone who is not an SPD-PC host.
 - **Collecting and providing** us with the email addresses of your group members.

PLEASE PRINT and return by mail, scan, or fax.

By submitting this application, you are indicating you have read and agree with all of the above. Please print your name and sign the agreement before sending to:

SPD-Parent Connections
C/O The SPD Foundation
5655 S. Yosemite St. #305
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
FAX: 303-322-5550

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

City of meeting site _____

Meeting location site _____

Meeting dates and times _____

I, _____, have read the SPD-PC Information and Application and agree to the conditions.

I, _____, wish to serve as an ambassador of the SPD Foundation in the role of (circle one) SPD-PC Host / SPD-PC Community Resource.

I, _____, give permission to the SPD Foundation website, www.SPDnetwork.org, to list my name and the email address as provided above.

I, _____, agree to allow SPD-PC to provide my mailing address to companies and nonprofits for the benefit of receiving materials to share with parents during meetings.

Signature of Host

Date

What interests me most about becoming a Parent Connections host is the following:

