



## **SENSORY SHOWTIME**

### **A Sensory Awareness Event**

#### **Fact Sheet about SPD and the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation**

If you are speaking out about Sensory Processing Disorder and the Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation, chances are you are the parent or family member of a child with SPD or you have a close personal connection to someone who has SPD. Talking about your personal experience is the most compelling way to raise SPD awareness and inspire contributions during Sensory Showtime or any fundraising event. Using any or all of the following language and facts about SPD and the Foundation may also be powerful.

- Sensory Processing Disorder is a complex brain disorder that creates difficulty in accurately detecting or interpreting sensory input and turning it into appropriate behavior.
- SPD causes motor, behavioral, emotional, and/or self-care problems that make children with SPD seem “different.” (Note: Give concrete examples of symptoms you’ve observed.)
- The latest research indicates as many as 1 in 6 children has sensory symptoms that cause such problems – several kids in every classroom!
- Without effective treatment, children with SPD struggle with simple everyday skills. They may be unable to dress themselves, write their names, pay attention in class, and/or tolerate food, lights, music, or other sensory input. Life-altering issues with self-confidence, self-esteem, self-regulation, and social participation may result.
- Because the disorder is not yet recognized by the most widely used diagnostic manual (the DSM), “sensational kids” with Sensory Processing Disorder are often misdiagnosed and inappropriately treated with drugs. Their parents are left feeling confused and helpless.
- The Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation is the worldwide leader in SPD research, education, and advocacy. The Foundation offers HOPE for families, HELP for children, RESEARCH for scientists, and ENRICHMENT for professionals.
- Your donations help fund:
  - **Research** to discover the cause and treatment of SPD.
  - **Education** so that teachers, care givers, parents and others spot the symptoms of SPD and have successful strategies to improve lives for children with SPD
  - **Advocacy** for Sensory Processing Disorder to be recognized in diagnostic manuals, accommodated by schools, and covered by insurance
- The SPD Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 public charity, and donations to the SPD Foundation are tax-deductible.