SCAFFOLDING

ELICITING ADAPTIVE RESPONSES THROUGH

THE APPLICATION OF SENSORY INTEGRATION THEORY

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| **Area of Focus** | **Therapeutic Adjustments** | **Outcomes** |
| AROUSAL | Begin interactions with analysis of the child’s status here.  Decide if interactions need to be excitatory or inhibitory | Improved attention to relevant aspects of people and things in the environment  Readiness to interact |
| SENSORY MODULATION | Adjust intensity, duration and variety of environmental stimuli | Improved self-regulation of behaviors, emotions and interactions |
| SENSORY DISCRIMINATION | Alter temporal/spatial sensory qualities | Enhanced perception of broader perceptual field |
| SKILL | Grade challenge in fine and gross motor areas | Ease of challenging gravity  Refinement of learned interactions with objects and people |
| PRAXIS | Alter demand relative to creative ideas, sequence of steps, and adjustments based on novelty | More automatic and dynamic planning of adaptive and complex interactions with objects and people |
| ORGANIZATION OF BEHAVIOR | Adjust responsibility for increasingly complex tasks in time and space | Organizing sequences of multiple interactions both under current circumstances and in the future |

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\* Sensory integrative intervention strategies are utilized while maintaining an optimal level of arousal and providing appropriate and meaningful challenges. If arousal, modulation, and discrimination of information are maladaptive, it is difficult to work at the level of skill, praxis, and organization of behavior. When the individual obtains or regains an optimal level of arousal, the therapist can go back up to increasing demands for adaptive responses in increasing levels of skill praxis and organization of behavior. When demands for organization of behavior, praxis or skill are too difficult, the therapist adjusts the sensory environment, alters the level of challenge and strives to elicit a comfortable yet alert level of arousal. The highest level of adaptive response is achieved when all levels are successfully challenged.