What is Processing Speed?

Processing speed is the rate at which an individual takes in, prepares, and responds to information. Individuals with a diagnosed developmental disability may have a ‘slowed’ or ‘delayed’ processing speed. This means that it takes their brain longer (when compared to others) to receive, consider, and reply to information. Processing speed is not a measure of intelligence or ability.

Different types of information may be easier or harder to process. The brain processes many types of information—what is heard, felt, and seen. Some individuals may process different types of information at different speeds. For example, some individuals may be able to rapidly process images and more slowly process verbal communication.

Children that are eligible to receive special education will have completed various testing measures known as a psycho-educational evaluation. Processing speed is just one of the many areas of assessment completed during the evaluation. If you think that your child has processing speed delays you can talk to the school psychologist for assistance.

Processing Speed Delays—What to Look For

- Takes longer than other children to complete the same task
- Difficulty following complex or multi-step directions
- Challenges with completing timed tasks
- Difficulty with multitasking
- Struggles with academic achievement
- Observable time lag in responding to questions or tasks
- Need to re-read information multiple times to gain understanding

Processing Speed Delays—How to Help

- Provide breaks during complex tasks
- Allow extra time to complete assignments and tasks
- Be patient and slow down. Count to ten (in your head) after asking a question or giving a direction so that your child has time to respond.
- Break down complex tasks into smaller pieces
- Use repetition to help children learn new tasks

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10/22 @ 2pm</td>
<td>Behavior Supports:</td>
<td><a href="https://zoom.us/j/98572714684?pwd=cy9ieGRBdGZuNE02M3pRRIBVVW1tdz09">https://zoom.us/j/98572714684?pwd=cy9ieGRBdGZuNE02M3pRRIBVVW1tdz09</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10/29 @ 11:30am</td>
<td>Transitions for Families</td>
<td><a href="https://tinyurl.com/yyfcw9v4">https://tinyurl.com/yyfcw9v4</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 10/29 @ 6pm</td>
<td>Binder Training: Organizing All of Your Stuff!</td>
<td><a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2040212404373577231">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2040212404373577231</a></td>
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