



Using and Interpreting the Sensory Profile in Clinical Practice

Presented by Melinda Cooper; Winnie Dunn, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Catana Brown, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; and Sarah Anderson, OTD, OTR/L

On-Demand Workshop

Sponsored by Pearson Clinical Assessment

Overview

This course is for users of the Sensory Profile 2 and/or Adolescent/Adult Sensory Profile. It includes an overview of Dunn's sensory processing framework, on which the test scores are based, and explains how to interpret the results and use these meaningfully to inform clinical practice. The course includes case studies presented by test authors Winnie Dunn and Catana Brown to illustrate the translation of theory to practice.

Learner Outcomes

Based on the content of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the theoretical framework underlying the Sensory Profile
2. Explain the ways in which the Sensory Profile is similar to and different from other standardized assessments
3. Develop skills in using an occupation-focused approach to use and interpret the Sensory Profile
4. Analyze the meaning of different score patterns in the context of everyday life
5. Describe how to use data obtained from the Sensory Profile to direct clinical decision making and strategy formation

Time-Ordered Agenda

10 minutes	Introduction to sensory processing
60 minutes	Dunn's sensory processing framework
10 minutes	Administration and scoring
30 minutes	Interpretation of quadrant scores
20 minutes	Linking quadrant scores to occupational performance
20 minutes	Interpretation of sensory section scores
15 minutes	Using Sensory Profile data to assist with intervention planning
15 minutes	Case studies

About the Presenters

Melinda Cooper completed her degree in occupational therapy at LaTrobe University in Melbourne, Australia. She has worked in various pediatric community health, schools, and rehabilitation settings in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ran her own private practice, specializing in children with sensory, motor, and learning issues. Melinda joined Pearson Clinical Assessment as the consultant occupational therapist for Australia and New Zealand in 2007. She is currently the product manager for Pearson's occupational therapy and developmental assessment product lines.

Dr. Winnie Dunn is Distinguished Professor of Occupational Therapy at the University of Missouri. She is also a Certified Positive Psychology Coach. She is an expert for her work about sensory processing in everyday life. She has published hundreds of research articles and book chapters/books, and she has spoken internationally about her work. She authors the Sensory Profiles, which have been translated into dozens of languages and are used in practice and research. She has written a book for the public about her research entitled *Living Sensationally: Understanding your Senses*, which has been featured in *Time* magazine, *Cosmopolitan* magazine, Canadian Public Radio and the *London Times* newspaper among others. *Living Sensationally* received the *Seal of Excellence* from the Children of the New Earth magazine for parents, professionals, and other caregivers.

Dr. Dunn's most recent work demonstrates the effectiveness of coaching and telehealth. She has published about the effectiveness and fidelity of coaching. She has also employed telehealth technology to support families in remote locations; she has shown that coaching is effective within technology, broadening ideas about how to provide evidence-based care. She has received top honors in her field, including the Award of Merit and the Eleanor Clark Slagle Lectureship. She is a member of the Academy of Research for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and has received the A. Jean Ayres research award. She has also received awards for engaging teaching, including the Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award, the Kemper Teaching Fellowship, and the Chancellor's Distinguished Professorship.

Dr. Catana Brown is a Professor for Midwestern University's Occupational Therapy Program. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from Colorado State University in 1981, an Advanced Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from New York University in 1994, and her PhD in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in measurement and statistics from the University of Kansas in 1999. Her practice has focused on mental health. Dr. Brown began teaching in 1991, and previous faculty positions include the University of Kansas Medical Center and Touro University Nevada. As a researcher she has received grants from the National Institute of Disability Research and Rehabilitation National Institute of Mental Health. She is a co-author with Winnie Dunn of the *Adolescent/Adult Sensory Profile*. She is also author of *The Evidence-Based Practitioner* and *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health* with Virginia Stoffel and Jaime Munoz. She is currently working with Glen Gillen on the *14th Edition of Willard and Spackman's Occupational Therapy*. Her research has focused on sensory processing, cognition, wellness, and community living for individuals with serious mental illness. She developed NEW-R a weight loss program for individuals with serious mental illness in collaboration with the Center for Psychiatric Research at the University of Illinois - Chicago, and this intervention has been adopted at numerous community mental health centers. Her current research includes a study examining sensory processing preferences in people with substance use conditions and the development of a measure of interoception.



Dr. Sarah Anderson joined Northwestern University's Occupational Therapy team in March of 2018. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Minnesota in 2012, her master's degree in occupational therapy from Northwestern University in 2014, and her post-professional doctorate degree in occupational therapy from A.T. Still University in the fall of 2019. Her areas of interest include program development, emotional intelligence development, stress management, self-regulation/emotional regulation programming for populations across the life span, sensory modulation and trauma-informed therapeutic programming for children and adolescents, child/adolescent/adult mental health (emphasis in anxiety & trauma-informed care/education), and role emerging areas of practice.

Dr. Anderson has experience across many pediatric practice areas including: home health, behavioral health, private practice, and school-based practice. She has advanced training in sensory processing disorders, mood disorders, and anxiety. She completed the clinical trauma professional certification course in December of 2017. Other trainings include trauma sensitive yoga, mindfulness-based treatment strategies, Safe Sound Protocol, and trauma-informed care.

Disclosure

Financial

Melinda Cooper the presenter, is employed by Pearson Clinical Assessment

Non-financial - No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists.

Dr. Winnie Dunn and Dr. Catana Brown are authors of the Sensory Profile and receive royalties from the sale of these products.

Dr. Sarah Anderson has no relevant financial or nonfinancial relationship to disclose.

Course Content Disclosure: The Pearson Assessment Division develops and distributes assessments and intervention tools for occupational therapists and is the sponsor of this presentation. This course content will focus on the Sensory Profile 2 and Adolescent/Adult Sensory Profile.



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AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures.



Evidence

Brown, C., & Dunn, W. (2002). *Adolescent/Adult Sensory Profile: Manual*. NCS Pearson.

Dunn, W. (2014). *Sensory Profile 2: User's manual*. NCS Pearson.

Dunn, W., Brown, C., & McGuigan, A. (1994). The ecology of human performance: A framework for considering the effect of context. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 48(7), 595–607.

Laverdure, P., Stephenson, P., & McDonald, M. (2019, February). Using the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework to guide the evaluation process and make assessment choices in school practice (CEA0219) [Continuing education article]. American Occupational Therapy Association. <https://www.aota.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/Publications/CE-Articles/CE-Article-February-2019-Framework-School-Practice.pdf>

Law, M., Cooper, B., Strong, S., Stewart, D., Rigby, P., & Letts, L. (1996). The Person-Environment-Occupation Model: A transactive approach to occupational performance. *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 63(1), 9–23.

Attendance Requirements

Pearson maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Full attendance is required to receive a Continuing Education certificate—partial credit is not awarded. Participants must complete the on-demand curriculum as well as complete the program evaluation.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Continuing Education certificate requires 70% to pass the knowledge check questions.

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