

### **Phase 3 in the development of a screening instrument to identify sensory integration difficulties in children from low socio economic environments**

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**Introduction:** In South Africa at least 58% of children live in poverty and have difficulty accessing Sensory Integration assessment and treatment. SI difficulties are frequently missed and not addressed as current assessments are not standardized or appropriate for this population

**Objectives:** To empower therapists to identify children at risk of having sensory integration difficulties, the aim of the overall study is to develop a screening instrument for use with children 5 to 6 years 11 months of age.

**Methods:** A revised version of the newly developed SASISI screening test was compared to the SIPT as the golden standard for measuring sensory integration. 28 children with suspected sensory integration difficulties from rural low socio economic areas, were assessed on both instruments. Analysis of psychometric properties was done through descriptive statistics and inferential statistics

**Result:** The statistical analysis indicated that the sample experienced difficulties with visual as well as tactile discrimination. Children from the sample experienced severe difficulties with Praxis on verbal command and Visuo praxis patterns as identified by the SIPT. Comparisons between the tests indicated that there is a moderate correlation between the SASISI and the SIPT.

**Conclusion:** The comparison testing confirmed the fact that children from low socio economic areas are having difficulties with sensory integration and that the newly developed instrument is valid as a test of identifying children at risk of sensory integration difficulties.