

Sensory Integration: Meet Ryder

4 Months of Age

At 4 months age, Ryder was unable to lift his head during Tummy Time and exhibited torticollis. At 5 months old, Ryder started therapy.



12 Months of Age

Although Ryder made gains in his physical therapy treatment, at 12 months he still demonstrated:

- Difficulty crawling
- Poor sitting balance
- Fatigue during many movement activities
- Apprehension in new social settings
- Fear of movement



25 Months of Age

As Ryder grew older these issues developed into difficulties such as:

- Playing with peers
- Communicating and interacting in play groups
- Exploring playgrounds
- Keeping up with fast-moving children
- Adapting to changes in his daily routine



Evaluation and Therapy

At 15 months, Ryder was a smart boy growing increasingly aware of the differences between him and his peers. Due to growing troubles, an occupational therapy evaluation was recommended which revealed that Ryder's challenges were a result of difficulties in processing and integrating sensory information. In response to this discovery, his team of physical, speech, and occupational therapists began a program using the principles of Ayres Sensory Integration (ASI).

In therapy and at home, Ryder engaged in sensory rich activities that provided his body with intense movement and touch experiences. These fun and intrinsically motivating activities, under the care of his therapist, helped Ryder to integrate sensory information from his body and world. With ASI principles guiding Ryder's treatment, home activities, and parent education, he made fast gains in speed, balance, endurance, coordination, and motor planning.



These skills helped him:

- Playing with peers
- Communicating and interacting in play groups
- Exploring playgrounds
- Keeping up with fast-moving children
- Adapting to changes in his daily routine

With encouragement from his family and therapists using the ASI approach, Ryder is on his way to becoming a child that approaches life with confidence and a great big welcoming smile.

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