



## VISION

The SPD Foundation is the world leader in research, education, and advocacy for Sensory Processing Disorder, a neurological condition that affects the way sensations are turned into behaviors.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The SPD Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for children with SPD and their families by –

- conducting rigorous research into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of Sensory Processing Disorder
- educating the world about SPD through innovative learning and awareness programs for individuals, families, clinicians, teachers, health care providers, policy makers, and the public
- advocating for diagnostic recognition of the disorder

## WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SPD

- SPD is a complex disorder of the brain that affects the way sensations are experienced and organized.
- The daily lives of at least 1 in 20 children are affected by SPD. That's 5% of the general population – about one child in every classroom.
- In children with autistic spectrum disorders, the incidence of SPD is estimated to be even higher – at least 80%. SPD is believed to occur in about 30% of gifted children as well.
- The disorder has unique symptoms not explained by other known conditions and is often misdiagnosed.
- Studies indicate that occupational therapy is an effective intervention for treating children with SPD.
- Children with SPD who reach adulthood without receiving treatment continue to be affected by sensory challenges.

## WHAT WE DO ABOUT SPD

- **RESEARCH** the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of SPD and mobilize research groups nationwide to expand knowledge about SPD with scientific study
- **PUBLISH** groundbreaking research in medical and other journals
- **SPONSOR** two international educational symposiums each year to spread the word about the latest breakthroughs in research and treatment
- **MENTOR** clinicians from around the world in innovative SPD assessment and intervention
- **TEACH** families and professionals about SPD through an eLearning program of online classes taught by experts in the field
- **SPONSOR** the most comprehensive SPD site on the worldwide web
- **ADVOCATE** for recognition of SPD as a separate and valid disorder in diagnostic manuals including the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*
- **CHAMPION** intervention, accommodation, and accurate information about SPD in schools, health care practices, homes, and wherever people live, play, work, or seek services
- **PARTNER** with the prestigious STAR Center in Denver to promote research-based treatment and education for “sensational kids” and families