



Children's  
of Alabama®

# Sensory Pathway Patient Assessment





Children's of Alabama understands that the hospital can be stressful for children and adolescents who respond differently to the sensory inputs of their environment. The Sensory Pathway at Children's of Alabama offers your child resources to help prevent sensory overload experienced during their hospital visit.

Patient's Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patient's Functional Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: 8 years old but functions on a 2 year old's level)





How does your child prefer to communicate?

- Speaking
- Non-Speaking or Unreliable Speaking
- Uses Communication Device: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child **sensitive/avoidant** to any of the following:

-  visual stimulation (bright lights, certain colors, etc.)
-  auditory stimulation (loud noises, certain sounds, etc.)
-  smells (alcohol wipes, certain scents, perfume)
-  touch/textures (the feel of the hospital gown, certain textures, etc.)
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child **enjoy/seek** stimulation from any of the following:

-  visual stimulation (light up toys, certain colors, videos)
-  auditory stimulation (music, white noise, etc.)
-  smells (essential oils/aromatherapy, etc.)
-  touch/textures (fidget toys, deep pressure, vibration, weighted lap pads)
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child learns best by:

- seeing (pictures, social stories, videos, seeing equipment beforehand)
- hearing (verbal explanation or being told what is going to happen)
- touch (touching or exploring items)
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

What are specific triggers or things that may upset your child?

\_\_\_\_\_

What are specific behaviors your child may show when upset or becoming upset?

\_\_\_\_\_

What helps your child calm down (comfort items, coping techniques, a certain person, certain phrases)?

\_\_\_\_\_






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# Sensory Pathway Sensory Tools List

Sensory tools are used to support your child's sensory needs during their visit. Below is a list of tools available to patients placed on the Sensory Pathway. Please let staff know if you believe your child would benefit from any of the listed items. Patients are welcome to keep tools until discharged. Items may be returned to a staff member at time of discharge.

## Tactile (Touch)

Spiky Light Up Ball 

Stress Ball 

Klick Link 

Mini Massager 

Squidgits 

Weighted Lap Pad 


Pop Fidget 

Water Bead Shapes 


## Social Stories

Social stories are used to help your child understand upcoming procedures or events that may be experienced throughout their hospital stay. Physical copies of social stories are available upon request. Electronic copies are also available on the Children's of Alabama website at [www.childrensal.org/sensory-pathway](http://www.childrensal.org/sensory-pathway).


## Auditory (Hearing)

Noise cancelling headphones 


Sound Machine 


Pop Tube 


## Visual (Vision)

Light spinner 

Liquid timer 

Sand Timer 

Cosmic Wand 

Glitter Wand 

Sunglasses 