



TS and OT

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Are you tempted to skip quickly over this article because you are so tired of educational acronyms that only serve to confuse you more. Before you do, take a moment to answer these simple questions about your child with TS. If you answer yes to any of these questions, I strongly encourage you to read on because you are not alone and there may be some answers.

How many of you have a difficult time buying clothes for your child?

Are you forever cutting tags out of the back of shirts, are you in a constant search for socks without seams and pants with an elastic waist?

How many of you have a child who is bothered by bright lights, loud or particular noises, certain smells, the feel of some fabrics?

How many of you have a child with TS who has very poor handwriting, who continually copies things wrong from a textbook, the chalkboard?

How many of you have a child who goes quickly into "overload" and becomes very easily out of control?

These are all behaviors that we see very frequently with children with TS. They are not motor tics or vocal tics, they are not obsessions or compulsions, but they are certainly very common with children with TS.

We don't have all the answers with TS, but we do know that there are certain co-morbid conditions that are seen in very large numbers of children with this disorder. One of these conditions is something called Sensory Defensiveness. I will try to explain it in so that you as a parent can understand what your child is going through. We have 5 senses and any of these can be heightened with children with neurological disorders such as TS. If your auditory sense is affected, you will find it difficult to tolerate certain noises or in particular,

