MNRI® Tactile Integration

Course Overview

Skin, our largest organ, forms the boundary between our physical being and the outside world. It also houses the tactile system, which allows the body to access tactile sensations from the outside world. The skin possesses eleven different tactile receptors to distinguish the broad array of tactile stimuli input encountered by the body. This set of tactile receptors helps to inform and prioritize incoming sensory information for the central nervous system to process. Once processed, the central nervous system directs the body's actions in response to ever-changing tactile conditions. Due to congenital issues or trauma (in utero, at birth, or anytime after birth), tactile system challenges can result, causing any one of the following conditions.

- *Hyper*-sensitive Tactile System – Also referred to as tactile defensiveness, this results in a negative, over-reaction to touch that typically would not be a problem. A person with a hyper-sensitive tactile system will often respond negatively to hugs, having their hair brushed or nails clipped, and complain about various textures, seams, tags and avoid wearing any form fitting clothes. A simple skin scrape can elicit a reaction expected for a far more debilitating wound.
- *Hypo*-sensitive Tactile System – A person with a hypo-sensitive tactile system often does not respond to tactile input that would cause most people to act. A deep cut, a hard push, or other forms of physical harm lead to little or no reaction. Tactile input important to taking action and avoiding harm, is often missed by a person with a hypo-sensitive tactile system, leaving them at risk for great harm. People with hypo-sensitive tactile systems often seeking more intense sensory stimulation in an effort to register sensation.
- Non-Functioning Tactile System – A non-functioning tactile system is simply not working.

The reactions of a person with either a hyper- or hypo-sensitive tactile systems, often seem bigger or smaller than normal conditions would dictate. Such disproportionate reactions are often an indication that an individual's tactile system is not appropriately engaged and integrated. The MNRI Tactile Integration program uses neuro-tactile techniques to stimulate different receptors in the skin, working to appropriately engage and integrate the tactile sensory system within the complete mind/body system. When the tactile system is integrated, the brain stem relaxes defensive reflexes, and opens the entire system to an experience of safety in which emotion and behavioral regulation improves and healthy motor, communication, and cognitive development can proceed.

Professionals, parents and caregivers interested in learning more about the MNRI Method and its various programs are encourage to attend this course early on, given the fundamental role it plays in emotional and behavioral regulation, and overall maturation and development. The Tactile Integration course explores in great detail the physiology and psychology of the tactile system, the developmental effects of over- and

under-sensitive receptors, and the importance of an appropriately integrated tactile system to the process of integrating all motor reflex movement and patterns.

The MNRI Tactile Integration course explores:

- The general MNRI Method and role played by the Tactile Integration Program
- Tactile integration and how it relates to motor reflexes and other important body systems
- The neurophysiologic and psychological dynamics of the tactile system
- The role tactile integration plays in establishing a foundation for motor, communication and cognitive development, and emotional and behavioral regulation
- MNRI techniques designed to assess, activate, and integrate tactile sensitivities
- How to create MNRI tactile integration programs for individual clients
- How to incorporate use of MNRI Tactile Integration course content into daily client and home practice

Course Objectives

1. Describe the Masgutova Neurosensorimotor Reflex Integration (MNRI®) processes for activating the innate nature of the sensory-motor reflex.
2. Describe NeuroTactile integration processes and how they effect sensory-motor reflex patterns and other important body systems and how they alleviate negative physical and psychological effects of sensory stimuli in stress.
3. Explain the neurophysiological and psychological dynamics of the tactile system development.
4. Describe the process by which the brain engages in protection versus learning and development.
5. Describe how the strategies taught in this course optimizes the brainstem, relaxes defensive reflexes and opens the entire system for healthy development.
6. Demonstrate the process of skin and tactility development from utero time and the origins of the nervous, and cardiovascular and immune systems.
7. Describe the three layers of skin and how they affect the sensory processing and the development of the nervous system.
8. Explain the MNRI® NeuroTactile Integration program and the neuro-tactile procedures and techniques used to regulate functions of different receptors and dermatomes in the skin.
9. Demonstrate how to appropriately engage and integrate the tactile sensory system within the complete mind/body system.
10. Describe how the role of the skin receptors effect the neurophysiological bases for the development of the reflex arcs and circuits.
11. Demonstrate how skin is the main organ for the sense of touch and what that means for the healthy development of cognitive, social, emotional and physical areas in an infant.
12. Describe the connection between the deep sensibility system and proprioception and their connection

with muscular system and motor control.

13. Explain the neurophysiological functioning of the tactile system and it connection to the brain, spinal cord and nerve network.
14. Demonstrate the steps to prepare for the NeuroTactile Integration program strategies to integrate the senses and the brain-body connections.
15. Apply through hands-on supervision the exercises to implement MNRI® neuro-regulation techniques designed to assess, activate, and integrate challenged tactile systems: Front and Sides of body greeting, Arm and Leg segments, Rotations, Core, Head, and Back of Body.

Course Disclosure:*The Svetlana Masgutova Educational Institute has developed and patented a licensed technology trademarked as MNRI®. Because there are no other like-kind products available, course offerings will only cover information that pertains to the effective and safe use of the above-named products. This presentation will focus exclusively on MNRI® and will not include information on other similar or related products or services.*