MNRI® Visual & Auditory Reflexes Integration

Course Overview:

The visual and auditory systems work independently, in combination with each other, and with the remaining sensory systems to inform and guide the body's internal and external actions. The auditory system provides the body access to sounds and vibrations from nature, voices (others and their own), instruments, machines and more; distinguishing differences in volume, timbre, rhythm, pitch, modulation and frequency. When focus is required, auditory reflexes instantaneously block out unnecessary sound frequencies, and when general auditory awareness is required, the auditory reflexes just as quickly expand sound frequency access to ensure the central nervous system is provided with all the information it needs to respond appropriately. The visual system distinguishes variations in shape, color, brightness, movement, helping to distinguish familiar people, places and things from unfamiliar, to determine relative location, and detect visual input important to daily function and general survival. Visual reflexes adjust instantaneously from static and dynamic visual input that is near or far, blocking out extraneous visual input when visual concentration and focus are required, while remaining vigilant to unusual visual input important to productive functioning and general safety. While the visual and auditory sensory systems each provide the body access to unique forms of stimulus input, they also work together to coordinate "seeing-hearing" information and in combination with the other sensory systems to inform and prioritize input for the central nervous system to guide and direct action in response to ever-changing conditions. Due to congenital issues or trauma (in utero, at birth or anytime after birth) the auditory and visual systems can become hypersensitive or hyposensitive as defined below, or simply not function; leading to a number of auditory and visual challenges.

Hyper-sensitive Reactions

- *Auditory hyper-sensitivity* can result in an over-reaction or intolerance to loud sounds, high or low frequencies of sound, or other sound characteristics that do not cause disruption to others. People with a hyper-sensitive auditory system often cover their ears and will in reaction to the discomfort various sounds cause
- *Visual hyper-sensitivity* can result in an over-reaction or distraction to visual input that typically does not cause disruption to others, i.e. bright or low lights, bright colors or complex graphic designs, static or dynamic visual stimulus relating to people, animals, objects, and more. People

Hypo-sensitive Reactions

- *Auditory hypo-sensitivity* resultsin an under-reaction to sounds that typically engage others to act. Often auditory hypo-sensitivity causes an individual to miss information important to learning, remaining safe and productively functioning in the world. People with this challenge often remain oblivious to sounds that cause others to negatively react.

- *Visual hypo-sensitivity* results in an under-reaction to visual input that typically engages others to take action. A person who is experiencing hypo-sensitive vision might look directly at bright lights that would cause other's to cover their eyes, might not react to movement that could cause harm, or have difficulty following people or objects with their eyes.

When auditory or visual challenges lead to reactions bigger or smaller than normal conditions would dictate, it is likely the challenged system is not appropriately engaged or integrated. The emotions and behavior of a person experiencing auditory or visual challenges often appears dys-regulated to outside observers. MNRI Visual and Auditory Integration Program techniques work to engage and integrate the visual and auditory sensory systems to improve sensory system function, which in turn, can improve behavioral and emotional regulation, and enhance learning.

Professionals, parents, and caregivers working with clients or children facing visual or auditory challenges are encouraged to attend the MNRI Visual and Auditory Integration course. The course explores in great detail the physiology and psychology of the visual and auditory systems, the developmental effects of hyper- and hypo-sensitive challenges, and the important role the visual and auditory systems play in the integration of all motor reflex movements and patterns.

Visual and Auditory Reflex Integration course participants can expect to learn about:

- Visual and Auditory reflexes as they relate to automatic motor reflexes and important body systems
- Binocular vision and visual perception, binaural hearing, auditory perception and postural control, visual and auditory concentration and attention span, seeing/hearing and hearing/seeing coordination systems and the conditions necessary for optimal functioning
- The role auditory reflexes play in establishing the foundation for future motor, communication and cognitive development, and emotional and behavioral regulation
- The reflex points important to visual and auditory reflex integration, movement coordination activities and the coordination necessary between the auditory and visual systems in the body
- MNRI techniques developed to assess, pattern and integrate visual and auditory reflexes and related primary motor reflex movements and patterns

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This presentation will focus exclusively on MNRI® and will not include information on other similar or related products or services.