



Treatment of Motor Issues in Children with Sensory Dysfunction

Course Description

Children with sensory dysfunction are frequently referred to physical therapy with family concerns of poor coordination, weakness, hypo/hypertonia, impaired balance and difficulty with motor skills. They are often labeled as awkward, lazy or clumsy, and have difficulty physically keeping up with their peers, or performing basic tasks such as running, jumping, & stairs.

Therapists are aware that the difficulty with these skills is related to sensory dysfunction, but the sensory-based element of movement is an area that often eludes physical therapists, resulting in frustrating interactions and inferior outcomes. However, synthesizing gross motor function with a sensory system foundation can improve outcomes for this population.

This course provides practical insight into therapeutic interaction with children with both sensory system & gross motor dysfunction. Intervention strategies are provided, with the purpose of utilizing the sensory systems to effect change in gross motor performance.

This course does NOT aim to teach sensory processing integration therapy. Rather, it proposes how various essential components of "sensory-aware" intervention may be combined to facilitate purposeful effective results in the context of physical therapy treatment sessions.

The practical application of didactic information by way of simple techniques address the following obstacles to efficient gross motor performance:

- Sensory dysfunction
- Insufficient postural control
- Foundational weakness
- Instability & related poor mobility & incoordination
- Poor motor planning



Location / Dates

Pediatric Advanced Therapy
134 Infield Court,
Mooresville NC 28117

March 20th-21st 2026

Registration Pricing

Category	Pricing
Regular	\$425
Groups of (3+)	\$375
Early Bird (by Feb 2 nd)	\$350
Past PAT Employee	\$350

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<https://pediatricadvancedtherapy.com/continuing-education/> for information about upcoming courses



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Instructor Bio



Liesa M. Ritchie (formerly Persaud), PT, DPT, PCS, is a licensed physical therapist with 36 years experience in the field of pediatric therapy. Liesa is the owner of Know To Change, an organization dedicated to advancing the knowledge & skills of clinicians in pediatric practice. Both nationally and internationally, she has educated healthcare professionals in advanced

treatment techniques, performed specialized practical training and provided consultative services.

Liesa has worked in a variety of settings, including private pediatric clinics, schools, private homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities, as well as facilities overseas. Dr. Ritchie is a Credentialed Clinical Instructor and also taught human anatomy, physiology & nutrition.

She received her Associate's Degree in 1993 and worked as a physical therapist assistant while obtaining her Bachelor of

Science Degree in Organizational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dr. Ritchie earned her Master's Degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio in 2003 and continued to expand her expertise in the field. She received her post-graduate Doctorate from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in 2011 and is a Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy.

Liesa's passion for helping others extends into her private life. She has volunteered as a Call Rape Advocate and Salvation Army Volunteer. Her passion for travel has led her to teach & treat overseas in Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, the Arab Emirates & Mexico, in addition to organizing & participating in mission work in Mexico, Ukraine & Palestine.

Liesa's wide range of clinical experience, organizational leadership, proficient teaching skills, motivation to improve the standard of care, and enthusiasm & passion for her field, make her an exciting and compelling instructor.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Describe interdependent dynamics of sensory systems as they relate to gross & fine motor function.
2. Identify specific areas of sensory dysfunction in children referred to physical & occupational therapy for gross & fine motor challenges.
3. Learn how to apply skilled clinical reasoning in sensorimotor therapeutic interventions.
4. Develop sensory-based strategies to increase postural control, strength, coordination, motor planning, stability & mobility.
5. Explain evidence-based rationale for chosen therapeutic techniques to improve caregiver, team and administrative communication & understanding.

Instructional Methods

Lecture, video demonstrations, video case analysis, interactive group discussions, and post-test

Course Educational Level:

Intermediate

Target Audience:

PT • OT • PTA • OTA

Financial and Non-financial Disclosures

Financial Disclosure:

The instructor, Dr. Liesa M. Ritchie is being financially compensated by Pediatric Advanced Therapy to present this course.

Non-financial Disclosure:

Dr. Ritchie is the owner of Know To Change, an educational organization dedicated to advancing the knowledge & skills of clinicians in pediatric practice.

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Course Agenda

Day 1

8:00 - 10:00	<u>The significance of the vestibular, visual & proprioceptive systems to gross motor function</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vestibular functioning & muscle tone• Visual dysfunction & its effects on postural control• Proprioception & movement coordination
10:00 - 10:15	BREAK
10:15 - 12:15	<u>Sensory based physical challenges</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dyspraxia & Postural Disorder• Gait abnormalities• Common comorbidities
12:15 - 1:00	LUNCH
1:00 - 3:00	<u>Assessment of vestibular, visual & proprioceptive performance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post rotary nystagmus• Prone extension & supine flexion• Modified Clinical Test of Sensory Interaction in Balance• The Kaplan Non-Verbal Battery (test of vision)• Comprehensive Observations of Proprioception• Direct measurements of proprioception & clinical procedure

Day 2

8:00 - 10:00	<u>Video case analysis & Interactive group discussion</u>
10:00 - 11:00	<u>Improved sensory function & subsequent gross motor ability</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundational sensory competence• Development of sensorimotor function
11:00 - 11:45	LUNCH
11:45 - 1:15	<u>Utilization of each sensory system to support motor skills in therapy sessions. Formulating & implementing treatment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vestibular contributions during physical activity• Vision activities• Proprioception & motor development• Balance as a multi-system outcome• Video activity examples
1:15 - 1:30	BREAK
1:30 - 3:00	<u>Strategies to increase gross motor skill</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postural control & Coordination• Strength & Motor planning• Stability & Mobility

Registration

Please register online at www.pediatricadvancedtherapy.com/continuing by March 9th 2026. Seating is limited and registration may close prior to that date if capacity is reached.

Contact Beth Lappin, bethl@patkids.com for accommodations or special requests.

Cancellation Policies (learner and provider)

A refund/voucher towards future course will be issued to all participants when a course is cancelled. This will be completed by check payment or credit card refund, dependent on method of payment utilized by course attendee.

Option to select voucher/refund at the participants preference. Cancellations received no less than 10 days before the course are refundable minus a \$50 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after this deadline.

CEU Information

This course provides **12 contact hours and 1.2 PDUs**. The course meets criteria for occupational and physical therapists.

PD activity requirements

Full participation in the duration of the course, participation in group activities, labs, and post-test, as well as course evaluations will be required for course completion and PD certificate.



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