

Image 3: Nine brain domains

Executive Functioning

- May have trouble with planning, sequencing, problem solving and organisation.
- May be impulsive.
- Difficulty controlling emotions.
- Challenges with transitions and change.
- Often repeats mistakes and has difficulty understanding consequences.
- Difficulty with abstract ideas/concepts.
- Difficulty managing time.

Sensory and Motor

- Maybe unable to make sense of what is going on around them.
- May under or over react to sensory input, for example, light, noise, touch, smell and/or taste and movement.

Academic Skills

- May have difficulty in school particularly with maths, reading, time and money.
- May have difficulty with comprehension, organisation and abstract concepts.
- May have difficulty with age appropriate tasks.
- May have normal IQ.
- Learn better with visual or 'hands on' approach.

Brain Structure

- Brain and head circumference may be small.

Living & Social Skills

- May not understand personal boundaries and have difficulty reading social cues.
- May be socially vulnerable and easily taken advantage of.

- May have difficulty seeing things from another's point of view

- Socially and emotionally immature... may behave younger than actual age.

Focus & Attention

- Can be easily distracted, over-stimulated or impulsive.
- May have difficulty paying attention and be over active.
- 'Can't sit still'.

Cognition (*Reasoning & Thinking*)

- Difficulty with attention, learning, memory, planning and organisation.
- Difficulty with understanding complex ideas.
- Wide range of IQ.

Communication

- May speak well but not always understand the full meaning.
- Delayed language milestones for age.
- Difficulty with lengthy conversations.
- Difficulty following instructions.
- May be able to repeat instructions but not able to follow them through.

Memory

- Difficulty with long and short term memory – may seem forgetful.
- Difficulty recalling sequences or complex instructions.
- Relatively better visual memory.
- Easily forget steps in normal daily routine.
- Appear to lie but are really 'filling in the blanks'.

What Parents and Carers need to know