

Ayres Sensory Integration education in Finland

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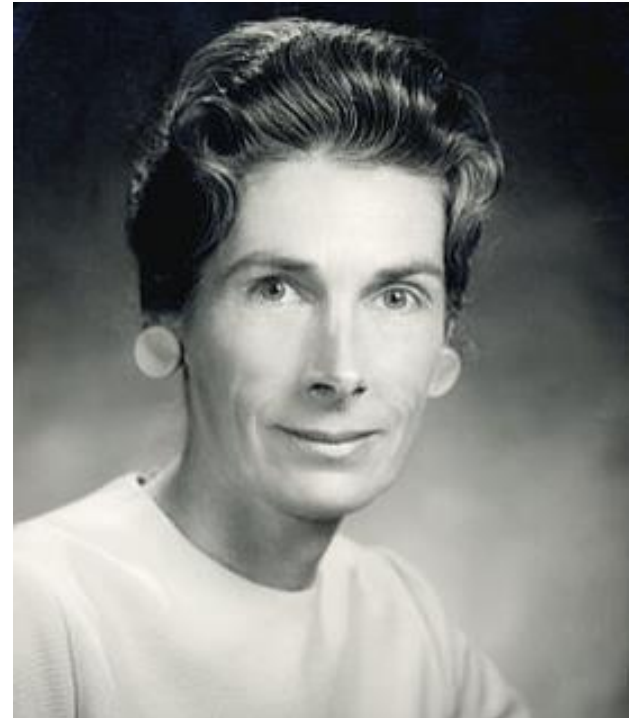
Overview



- Finland's first Sensory Integration course was organized in 1985
- This January we finished our latest course
- All together we have had 13 Sensory Integration Theory & Therapy courses
- We have now around 240 SI trained OTs and PTs
- Sensory Integration education is highly respected in pediatric rehabilitation in Finland

How did it all start

- In the beginning of the 80s Finnish OT Päivi Danner was studying for her Master`s in L.A. at the University of Southern California.
- She chose OT610 in her study program and was privileged to study under the supervision of A. Jean Ayres
- When she returned to Finland, she wanted to share this amazing theory and therapy method with colleagues
- Dr. Ayres offered her help to build the SI education in Finland



Sensory Integration education

- The main goal for the SI education was to have an extensive theory education to really get to learn and understand this complex theory
- It had to be a postgraduate education
- For many years our SI education was consisting 8 -10 weeks of theory and between the theory periods there was clinical practising under supervision
- Clinical practice has always been an essential part of Finnish SI education
- This education has been mainly offered to OTs, but a limited amount of pediatric PTs has been accepted for the course

- Since the Finnish Sensory Integration Therapy Association was founded in 1992 it has been a provider of the content for SI education : The purpose of the association is to develop and organize education in the sensory integration theory, therapy and assessment
- From the year 2000 Sensory Integration Theory and Therapy education has been organized by the Universities of Applied Sciences with 38 ECTS in cooperation with the Finnish Sensory Integration Association
- Sensory Integration and Praxis tests – administration and interpretation course 15ECTS has been available after Sensory Integration Theory and Therapy education



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Revolution

- The education system was good and we always got three times the amount of applicants we were able to take in
- But times are changing and instead of the huge amount of contact lessons independent studying and e-learning has become more trendy
- In 2018 we decided to totally change the structure of our SI education and this process is still going on



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4 Levels of SI education

- A. Foundations of Sensory Integration 1 ECTS
- B. Sensory Integration Dysfunction and Child's Functioning 6 ECTS
- C. Sensory Integration Therapy 30 ECTS
- D. Advanced level in Sensory Integration



A. Foundations of Sensory Integration 1 ECTS

Content:

- The main principals of Sensory Integration Theory
- How the development of sensory integration process is connected to the typical development of a child; abilities and participation
- How the problems in sensory integration complicate a child's functioning in everyday life
- How the child's participation in everyday life can be strenghtened by modifying policies and the environment

Open: to everyone

B. SI Dysfunction and Child's Functioning 6 ECTS

Content:

- Neuroanatomy and physiology as a foundation of SI 1 ECTS (e-learning)
- Common patterns of sensory integration dysfunction and how they affect child's functioning
- Structured clinical observation
- Sensory Processing Measure
- The importance of systematic data collection in identifying a child's sensory integration problems
- When to refer a child to sensory integration assessment (SIPT -> EASI)

Open: to pediatric OTs and PTs

SI Therapy (30 -) 32 ECT

Content:

- Introduction 0.5 ECT
- Neuroanatomy and physiology 1,5 ECTS
- Comprehensive Assessment 2,5 ECTS
EASI: Clasi Modules 2 and 3
- Sensory Integration Theory and Intervention 6,5 ECTS
- Theoretical development work 5,0 ECT
- Clinical practice under supervision 12 ECTS
- In –depth theory weeks 4 ECTS

- **Who can apply?**

Occupational and Physiotherapists with completed levels A & B and have an experience in pediatric rehabilitation at least for 4 years

- **What is taken into consideration?**

Participants will be therapists from public health care and private health care.

The fields of neurology, psychiatry and mental retardation are covered

- **It takes around 1 year to get certified**



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What we need to reconsider ?

- When we have increased independent studying, it seems that teaming of the group will remain weaker
- Fewer contact lessons seems to give an impression that there is less to study -> students are working at the same time and get overwhelmed
- The upgrading day /workshop for supervisors – what is expected of students



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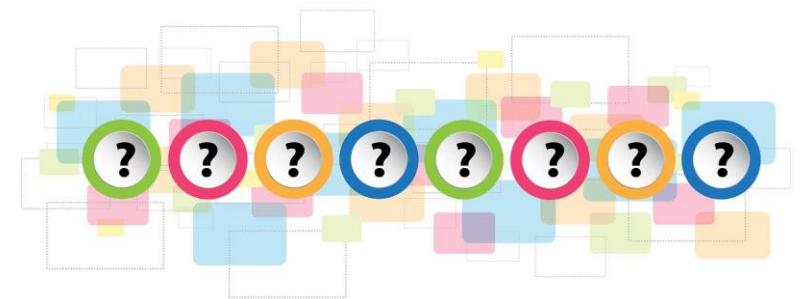
Conclusion

- To be a certified therapist in Sensory Integration Theory and Therapy in Finland requires studying from 38 to 39 ECTS
- At the minimum it will take 2 years
- Comprehensive assessment has to be included in education
- Clinical practice under supervision is crucial
- Fidelity Measure gives a good guideline when planning SI education



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Questions



Thank you

