

Master Hemispheric Checklist

Name _____ Date ____/____/____

The Master Hemispheric Checklist is a useful tool to use throughout the Synergy Neuro-Enrichment Program. There are 200 characteristics, 100 suggesting right-brain deficit and 100 suggesting left-brain deficit. This list will help accomplish 2 goals: First, in combination with the neurological exam, it will help determine if your child has Functional Disconnection Syndrome, which side of the brain is deficient, and how severe the imbalance is. Second, it will serve as a good tool to measure progress at progress re-exams. (*adapted from Disconnected Kids by Dr. Robert Melillo*)

Important: *As much as you are able*, base your answers compared to a typically developing child the same age. Also, answer based on how the child would be when **NOT** on medication.

RIGHT Motor Characteristics of a Brain Delay

- Clumsiness and Odd Posture
- Poor Coordination
- Not athletically inclined & has no Interest in popular childhood sports.
- Low muscles tone muscles seem kind of floppy
- Poor gross motor skills such as difficulty learning to ride a bike and or runs or walks oddly
- Repetitive stereotyped motor mannerisms (Spins in circles flaps arms)
- Fidgets excessively
- Poor eye contact
- Walks or walked on toes when younger

RIGHT Motor Sub-TOTAL _____

RIGHT Sensory Characteristics of Brain Delay

- Poor spatial orientation (bumps into things often)
- Sensitivity to sound
- Confusion when asked to point to different body parts
- Poor sense of balance
- High threshold for pain (doesn't cry when gets a cut)
- Likes to spin go on rides swing etc. (Anything with motion)
- Touches things compulsively
- A girl uninterested in make-up or jewelry
- Does not like the feel of clothes on arms, legs, skin

LEFT Motor Characteristics of a Brain Delay

- Fine motor problems (poor or slow handwriting)
- Difficulty with fine motor skills (Like buttoning a shirt)
- Poor or immature hand grip when writing
- Stumbles over words when fatigued
- Exhibited delay in crawling standing and or walking
- Loves sports and is good at them
- Good muscle tone
- Poor drawing skills
- Difficulty learning to play music
- Likes to fix things with the hands and is interested in anything mechanical
- Difficulty planning and coordinating body movements

LEFT Motor Sub-TOTAL _____

- Doesn't like to be touched and doesn't like to touch things
- Incessantly smells everything
- Prefers bland foods
- Does not notice strong smells such as (burning wood, popcorn, cookies baking in the oven)
- Avoids food because of the way it looks
- Hates having to eat and is not even interested in sweet
- Extremely picky eater

RIGHT Sensory Sub-TOTAL _____

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LEFT Sensory Characteristics of Brain Delay

- Doesn't seem to have many sensory issues or problems such as a sensitivity to sound
- Has good spatial awareness
- Has good sense of balance
- Eats just about everything
- Has a normal to above-average sense of taste and smell
- Likes to be hugged and held

- Does not have any oddities concerning clothing
- Has auditory processing problems
- Seems not to hear well, although hearing tests normal
- Delay in speaking was attributed to ear infections
- Gets motion sick and has other motion sickness issues
- Is NOT under sensitive or oversensitive to pain

LEFT Sensory Sub-TOTAL _____

RIGHT Emotional Characteristics of Brain Deficiency

- Spontaneously cries and or laughs and has sudden outburst of anger or fear
- Worries a lot and has several phobias
- Holds on to past "hurts"
- Has sudden emotional outburst that appear over-reactive and inappropriate to the situation
- Experiences panic and or anxiety attacks
- Sometimes displays dark or violent thoughts

- Face lacks expression doesn't exhibit much body language
- Too uptight cannot seem to loosen up
- Lacks empathy and feelings for others
- Lacks emotional reciprocity
- Often seems fearless and is a risk taker

RIGHT Emotional Sub-TOTAL _____

LEFT Emotional Characteristics of Brain Deficiency

- Overly happy and affectionate loves to hug and kiss
- Frequently moody and irritable
- Loves doing new or different things but gets bored easily
- Lack motivation
- Withdrawn and shy
- Excessively cautious, pessimistic, or negative
- Doesn't seem to get any pleasure out of life

- Socially withdrawn
- Cries easily feelings get hurt easily
- Seems to be in touch with own feeling
- Empathetic to other people's feelings.
- Reads people's emotions well
- Gets embarrassed easily
- Very sensitive to what others think about him or her

LEFT Emotional Sub-TOTAL _____

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RIGHT Behavioral Characteristic of Brain Delay

- Logical thinker
- Often misses the gist of a story
- Always the last to get a joke
- Gets stuck in set behavior can't let it go
- Lacks social tact and or is antisocial and or socially isolated
- Poor time management is always late
- Disorganized
- Has a problem paying attention
- Is hyperactive and or impulsive
- Has obsessive thoughts or behaviors
- Argues all the time and is generally uncooperative
- Exhibits signs of an eating disorder
- Failed to thrive as an infant

- Mimics sounds or words repeatedly without really understanding the meaning
- Appears bored, aloof and abrupt
- Considered strange by other children
- Inability to form friendships
- Has difficulty sharing enjoyment, interests, or achievements with other people
- Inappropriately giddy or silly
- Acts inappropriately in social situations
- Talks incessantly and asks the same question repetitively
- Has no or little "joint attention" (ability to share an experience with someone else by being aware of what they are looking at or pointing to)
- Didn't look at self in mirror as toddler

RIGHT Behavioral Sub-TOTAL _____

LEFT Behavioral Characteristics of Brain Delay

- Procrastination
- Is extremely shy, especially around strangers
- Is very good at nonverbal communication
- Is liked by other children and teachers
- Does not have any behavioral problems in school
- Understands social rules
- Has poor self-esteem
- Hates doing homework
- Is very good at social interaction

- Makes good eye contact
- Likes to be around people and enjoys social activities, such as going to parties
- Doesn't like to go to sleepovers
- Is not good at following routines
- Can't follow multiple step directions
- Is in touch with own feelings
- Jump to conclusions

LEFT Behavioral Sub-TOTAL _____

RIGHT Academic Characteristics of Brain Delay

- Poor math reasoning (word problems, geometry, algebra)
- Poor reading comprehension and pragmatic skills
- Misses the big picture
- Very analytical
- Likes "slapstick" or obvious physical humor
- Is very good at finding mistakes (spelling)

- Takes everything literally
- Doesn't always reach a conclusion when speaking
- Started speaking early
- Has tested for a high IQ but scores run the whole spectrum
- or IQ is above normal in verbal ability and below average in performance abilities

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continue: **Academic Characteristics of a Right Brain Delay**

- Was an early word reader
- Is interested in unusual topics
- Learns in a rote (memorizing) manner
- Learns LARGE amounts of specific facts about a subject
- Is impatient
- Speaks in a monotone has little voice inflection
- Is a poor nonverbal communicator
- Doesn't like loud noises (like fireworks)
- Speaks out loud regarding what he or she is thinking
- Talks "in your face" is a space invader

- Good reader but does not enjoy reading
- Analytical; led by logic
- Follows rules without questioning them
- Good at keeping track of time
- Easily memorizes spelling and mathematical formulas
- Enjoys observing rather than participating
- Would rather read an instructions manual before trying something new
- Math was the first academic subject to become a problem

RIGHT Academic Sub-TOTAL _____

LEFT Academic Characteristics of Brain Delay

- Very good at big picture skills
- Is an intuitive thinker and is led by feelings
- Good at abstract "free" association
- Poor analytical skills
- Very visual loves images and patterns
- Constantly questions why you're doing something or why rules exists
- Has poor sense of time
- Enjoys touching and feeling actual objects
- Has trouble prioritizing
- Is unlikely to read instructions before trying something new
- Is naturally creative but needs to work hard to develop full potential
- Would rather do things instead of observe
- Uses good voice inflection when speaking
- Misreads or omits common small words
- Has difficulty saying long words
- Reads very slow and laboriously
- Difficulty naming colors, objects, & letters as a toddler
- Needs to hear or see concepts many times in order to learn them
- Has shown a downward trend in achievement test scores
- Or school performance

- Schoolwork is inconsistent
- Was a late talker
- Has difficulty pronouncing words (poor with phonic)
- Had difficulty learning the alphabet nursery rhymes or songs when young
- Has difficulty finishing homework or finishing a conversation
- Acts before thinking and makes careless mistakes
- Daydreams a lot
- Has difficulty sequencing events in the proper order
- Often writes letters backward.
- Is poor at basic math skills
- Has poor memorization skills.
- Has poor academic ability
- Has an IQ lower than expected and verbal scores are lower than nonverbal scores
- Performs poorly on verbal tests
- Needs to be told to do something several times before acting on it
- Stutters or stuttered when younger
- Is a poor speller
- Doesn't read directions well

LEFT Academic Sub-TOTAL _____

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RIGHT Common Immune Characteristics of Brain Delay

- Has lots of allergies
- Rarely gets colds and infections
- Has had or has eczema or asthma
- Skin has little white bumps especially on the back of the arms

- Displays erratic behavior good one day, bad the next
- Craves certain foods especially dairy & wheat foods

RIGHT Immune Sub-TOTAL _____

LEFT Common Immune Characteristics of Brain Delay

- Gets chronic ear infections
- Prone to benign tumors or cysts
- Has taken antibiotics more than ten to fifteen times before the age of ten

- Has tubes put in the ears
- Catches colds frequently
- No allergies

LEFT Immune Sub-TOTAL _____

RIGHT Autonomic Characteristics of Brain Delay

- Problems with bowels such as constipation and diarrhea
 - Has rapid heart rate & or high blood pressure for age
- Appears bloated especially after meals and often complains of stomach pains

- Has strong body odor
- Sweats a lot
- Hands are always moist and clammy

RIGHT Autonomic Sub-TOTAL _____

LEFT Autonomic Characteristic of Brain Delay

- Has a bedwetting problem

- Has or had an irregular heartbeat such as an arrhythmia or a heart murmur

LEFT Autonomic Sub-TOTAL _____

Each checked box counts as 1 point.

Overall RIGHT Brain Total _____

Overall LEFT Brain Total _____

Grand Total _____

Severity Scale for Grand total:

- Mild – 50 or less
- Moderate – 50 to 100
- Severe – 100 or above

Left vs. Right: The greater the difference between the 2 sides, the greater the imbalance, and the more time it may take to correct.