

Parent friendly signs of "soft signs"

... from a parent

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[HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO LOOK FOR ON YOUR CHILD]

Here are a few quick parent friendly signs of **Oral Apraxia**

If you put peanut butter anywhere on his lips can he lick it off or does he use his fingers? Did he blow out the candles on his birthday cake when he turned two? Can he imitate funny faces? If you take his picture and say "smile" does he smile?

Here are some quick parent friendly signs of **Mild Hypotonia**

A child with hypotonia will feel heavier than a child of the same weight without hypotonia (kind of like the difference between picking up your child when he's fast asleep vs. awake) Hypotonia can be anywhere in the body. Does your child appear to tire faster than other kids his age walking in the mall etc.? Will you and your wife not dream of taking him anywhere without the stroller because you know if you don't bring the stroller you will be stuck carrying him because if you don't pick him up he will sit on the floor crying with his arms in the air for you to pick him up again? And since he's nonverbal -you will get looks from people passing by, or perhaps even comments -that your child is acting spoiled. When you pick him off the floor -it's not as easy as it looks for you -or others that try! Most will say "wow he's solid!" when picking him up. "Solid" is the word used by almost everyone to describe your child when people pick him up come to think of it. His body may look small and light -and many times both look like a cherub, and feel a bit like a marshmallow -rounded and soft. He may sit in the "W" position. If a child has severe hypotonia - he may look a bit like a rag doll (those are the children however that are spotted early however) - gravity just pulls them down. For a school age child -look for the child who can't sit at the desk long before leaning down on it. The child who when waiting on line will either lean or sit down. The child (or adult) with rounded shoulders who is always being told "stand up straight!" or "sit up!" etc.

Here are some quick parent friendly signs of **Sensory Integration Dysfunction.**

This is tough because it can affect any of the senses -touch, sight, hearing, motion, etc. So in a nutshell -Your child will seem to be bothered (or even in pain) by something that others aren't and will not be bothered by something most are if that makes sense.

Here are some of my son's signs that boy do I wish I knew this is what he had when he was screaming and people were looking at me like "what are you doing to that poor child"

Your child may insist on a certain color cup each time -and will throw a fit if it's any other. My son

for would carry a small cap from a pen or some other small strange object around for hours -and if you tried to open his clutched hand - he would freak out -even if you thought he was asleep and tried to take the pen cap away so he wouldn't choke on it while he was sleeping -he would wake up and freak out if he wasn't 100% asleep yet. He wouldn't cry for shots - but would say "oww" and cringe if you patted his head or tickled his arm. When Tanner was a baby (after the fevers and regression) his screams when I brought him to public places like the store would sound like high pitched extreme pain screams and he would stiffen his body -his eyes would bulge out -and he would do this just once in a while (Thank God) but when he did -he would cry till he fell asleep in a sweat -with nobody being able to figure out what was wrong (my Aunt has her PhD in nursing and my sister is a professional nanny -nobody had a clue) Just strange stuff that seemed quirky. DSI can also be the child that throws a tantrum like he's in pain -while you have no clue what he's crying about. Why DSI happens to a nonverbal child who is too young to let us know is a cruel joke -so it's important for us to know if this is what your child has. The Out of Sync Child is one of the books most of us buy when our child is diagnosed with any multi faceted neurologically based communication disorder like apraxia.

Here are some quick parent friendly signs of **Motor Planning Problems**.

In the body: Just like with speech -your child may be able to do something once and then appear not to remember how to do it again. His actions look forced or planned -he's slower because you can see he's thinking before each movement. His development is a bit off in that he can do many things advanced -but for some reason can't seem to do certain simple things that a much younger child even should be able to do. Again -just doesn't make sense.

Then you have to know if movement problems are from weakness (hypotonia) or motor planning (apraxia/dyspraxia) -just like with speech. Again -it could be a bit of both -and again -both are neurologically based.