From sensory & motor neurons to behavior

Understanding Owen

Owen’s motor neurons connected differently during development. This means the typical motor planning functions of the brain are disrupted.

Coordination for speech and movement is affected. The speed of Owen’s body doesn’t match his thoughts.

Executive functions are affected by this. Organizing, shifting attention, sustaining focus, and maintaining emotional stability are harder.

Frustration shows frequently. Owen has more going on ‘inside’ than other children and acts with more impulsivity and emotional intensity. He has heightened senses and prioritizes his body/mind comfort over relationships.

Sitting still requires muscle attention and endurance. Owen fidgets to cope. At times, he flops down and rolls around. These behaviors contribute to the ADHD label.

Sense of space is affected. He has trouble sensing where his body is and misjudges pressure, so he bumps other people, pulls on their limbs,ouches or shoves things into their faces, etc. Standing/walking in line is troublesome.

Structure supports that help Owen organize tasks will help him compensate for weaker skills. Some skills will grow stronger with time, but *DCD doesn’t disappear and some deficits grow more obvious over time (e.g. executive functioning in later grades).

Intelligence - 2e Many children with DCD like Owen are twice-exceptional (gifted and learning disabled). Owen is a bright & creative child. Positive attention from adults with patience and support will draw out natural strengths and help him grow other skills at a pace he can sustain.

It takes a village to raise a child and this is especially true for some kids more than others! They are all worth it, and Owen adds a spark everywhere he goes.

*DCD: Developmental Coordination Disorder/Dyspraxia

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