tactile sensitivity on the SSP, were highly correlated with measures of psychopathology on the CBCL, including aggressive and delinquent behavior and concerns about body and health. The authors propose two distinct sensory subgroups within ADHD, one with normal sensory responses and one with SMD. (Mangeot SD, Miller LJ, McIntosh DN et al. Sensory modulation dysfunction in children with attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder. Dev Med Child Neurol June 2001;43:399-406). (Respond: Lucy Jane Miller PhD OTR, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Research Office, 1901 W Littleton Boulevard, Littleton, CO 80120).

COMMENT. Sensory modulation is defined as the ability to regulate the degree and intensity of responses to sensory input, to optimize the performance and adaptation to the environment. Sensory modulation dysfunction (SMD) may present as sensation seeking or sensation avoiding behaviors. Seeking sensation behaviors include touching others too often or too hard, overactive and risky behavior, and repeated tapping or banging. Avoiding sensation behaviors are aggressive response or withdrawal from touch, fear of playground and car rides, over response to hugging and dislike for sports. Problems with sensitivity to stimuli such as touch may lead to emotional and behavior problems including aggressive responses. Treatments aimed at remediation of SMD among children with ADHD may prevent the development of comorbid oppositional defiance disorder.

CORTICAL LOCALIZATION OF READING IN NORMAL CHILDREN

Brain regions involved in processing written text while reading were identified by fMRI in 9 right-handed normal children, ages 7.9 to 13.3 years. While reading Aesop's Fables and responding to a reading response naming test, the fMRI showed strong activation in the left middle temporal gyrus and left midfrontal gyrus and variable activation in left inferior frontal gyrus. Reading Aesop's Fables activated twice as many pixels in temporal cortex as the Read Response Naming task. Activation in the right middle temporal region was small. Reading text paradigms and fMRI may be useful in determining language dominance in children with epilepsy before surgery. (Gaillard WD, Pugliese M, Grandin CB et al. Cortical localization of reading in normal children. An fMRI language study. Neurology July (1 of 2) 2001;57:47-54). (Reprints: Dr WD Gaillard, Department of Neurology, Children's National Medical Center, 111 Michigan Ave NW, Washington, DC 20010).

COMMENT. Reading in normal children is lateralized and localized to specific brain areas by middle to late childhood. Strong laterality in left temporal receptive and anterior language areas is identified in right handed subjects. Some but lesser activation is also present in the homologous non-dominant right temporal cortex.

MUSCLE DISORDERS

ACUTE ONSET INFANTILE SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY

Two infants who were asymptomatic at birth and presented at 3 and 6 months of age with acute onset generalized muscle weakness and hypotonia following respiratory infection are reported from the Schneider's Children Hospital, New Hyde Park, NY. A suspected diagnosis of Guillain-Barre syndrome and corroborating nerve conduction studies led to a trial of immunoglobulin