

# ALL ABOUT THE OLFACTORY SYSTEM



## WHAT IS THE OLFACTORY SYSTEM?

THE OLFACTORY (OR SENSE OF SMELL) SYSTEM ALLOWS US TO PROCESS AND UNDERSTAND THE SCENTS WITHIN OUR ENVIRONMENT.

## WHEN IT'S FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY...

WE CAN SMELL UNPLEASANT AND PLEASANT ODORS AROUND US WITHOUT BIG REACTIONS. ADDITIONALLY, WE CAN IDENTIFY SMELLS AS "GOOD," "UNPLEASANT" OR EVEN "UNSAFE."

## THE OLFACTORY SYSTEM IS WHAT ALLOWS US TO SENSE & PROCESS:

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE KITCHEN



WHICH SOAP WAS USED TO WASH HANDS

IF SOMEONE IS WEARING PERFUME/COLOGNE



# HOW SOME BRAINS & BODIES RESPOND TO OLFACTORY INPUT

A CHILD MAY SEEK OLFACTORY INFORMATION MORE THAN OTHERS. THIS MAY MEAN THEY ARE...



## OLFACTORY SEEKING

"OLFACTORY UNDER-RESPONSIVE"

THIS MIGHT LOOK LIKE:

- DOES NOT NOTICE OR RARELY NOTICES SMELLS IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT
- LIKES TO SMELL OBJECTS (I.E. MARKERS, CLOTHING, SOAPS, GLUES) OR OTHER PEOPLE
- MAY GREET NEW PEOPLE BY SMELLING THEM

A CHILD MAY BE MORE SENSITIVE TO OLFACTORY INFORMATION THAN OTHERS. THIS MAY MEAN THEY HAVE...

"OLFACTORY OVER-RESPONSIVE"

## OLFACTORY/SMELL SENSORY SENSITIVITIES



THIS MIGHT LOOK LIKE:

- ANXIOUS BEHAVIORS AROUND DIFFERENT SCENTS
- AVOIDANCE OF STRONG SMELLING FOODS
- GAGGING WHEN SMELLING STRONG SMELLING FOODS
- COMPLAINTS OF FEELING UNWELL WHEN FOOD IS BEING COOKED OR BEING IN PUBLIC RESTROOMS
- AVOIDS OR HAS STRONG REACTION TO SCENTS (I.E. PERFUME, COLOGNES, SOAPS AND DETERGENTS)