

Sensory Room Policy

October 2020

Statement of purpose:

The Bayside SDS sensory room is a space that was intentionally created to provide multi-sensory experiences. This space supports students with sensory processing difficulties to engage and develop their learning goals. Students are monitored and supported whilst accessing the sensory room, following their individualised program.

Sensory Processing Explained:

Sensory processing is the ability to organise and interpret information received through the senses (vestibular, auditory, visual, olfactory and proprioception) and then create an appropriate response. Our brain needs to process information from these senses simultaneously in order for us to understand our environment. Sensory Processing difficulties can impact on a student's ability to maintain an optimal arousal level to learn and advance their skills. As a result these students require support to manage their needs in a functional way so that they can engage in learning.

Conditions of use:

Each student accessing the sensory room requires a sensory assessment completed by the Occupational Therapist. If deemed appropriate, the student will then receive an individualised program linked to their current IEP learning goals.

Each student accessing the sensory room will be reviewed yearly by the Occupational Therapist to ensure the purpose of the sensory room meets their needs and complements their current ILP goals.

A report will be completed twice yearly to report on the students' progress and development through the program and how it links to their ILP. This is completed by the multi-sensory therapist.

Each student is allocated access to the sensory room according to need and in consultation with the student wellbeing team. Students must be supervised by the multi-sensory therapist when accessing the sensory room. A maximum of two adults and three students can access the room at one time to ensure the equipment is used correctly.



All staff supporting students in the sensory room must at a minimum:

- Know how to use each piece of sensory equipment
- Know how each student should correctly engage whilst using the equipment
- Ensure equipment is clean following use
- Report any damage if required
- Record students outcomes

Doors of the sensory room must be left open during use

Hygiene:

- Students and staff are required to wash their hands prior to entering the sensory room.
- Persons, including students who have open and/or uncovered wounds are not permitted to access the sensory room.

Students accessing the sensory must adhere to the Bayside SWPBS expectations when accessing the room.

Sensory Room Equipment:

(Please see sensory room equipment manual for use of each item)

- Bubble column
- Solar projector
- Activity board
- Mirror ball
- Aromatherapy diffuser
- Fibre optic spray
- Star projector
- Large speaker
- Seated massages
- Handheld massages

Please note the Department of Education does not support the use of weighted vests and weighted blankets.

Cleaning and maintenance of equipment:

All equipment in the sensory room needs to be checked monthly to ensure it is in good working order. All maintenance of equipment needs to be logged and reported in accordance with the Bayside SDS maintenance policy.



Bayside

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