

Tactile textiles : using textiles as a source of tactile and touch therapy for children who are suffering from tactile sensory dysfunction

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Tactile Textiles - Using textiles as a source of tactile and touch therapy for children who are suffering from tactile sensory dysfunction.

/Aims

This project aims to use textiles as a form of tactile touch therapy integrated into the current occupational therapy treatments and developed into a range of sensory toys targeted at children who suffer from sensory processing disorders particularly in the tactile sense eg. oversensitive, under responsive to the sense of touch.

/Target Audience

Children suffering from sensory processing disorders:

Sensory Modulation Disorder

Children who over-respond, under-respond to tactile senses or constantly seeking to fulfill their sensory appetite.

Sensory Discrimination Disorder

Children who are unable to correctly process the sense of touch. For example not being able to determine what is touching his body and inability to perform tasks with hands without looking.

from Miller, L. J., & Fuller, D. A. (2006). Sensational kids: Hope and help for children with sensory processing disorder (SPD). New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons

/Effectiveness

With the guidance of an occupation therapist and a prescribed sensory diet, sensory toys have been proven effective in helping children overcome their tactile intolerance, tactile insensibility and unhealthy sensory appetite. Treatment involving these toys also help them improve their social skills.

Design Solution

Use of textile as a material to create a range of tactile toys. The choice of fabric in this project are polyester organza and netting because of its ability to be moulded in to a variety of tactile sensory textures.

Choice of Colours



Red



Blue



Orange



Green



Yellow



Pink

Types of Tactile Textures



Berryberry



Shroomy



Pointy



Twirly



Dicey



Boomy

Advantages

Textile toys are free of poisonous substances such as lead and phthalates.

These substances are often present in plastic toys making them less safe for children to play with. It has been proven that fabric dyes have minimal or almost non-existent health risks. On top of that, there have been research that shows that polyester fabrics dyed with disperse dyes containing thiazole have anti-microbial properties. This adds on to the advantage of using textile as a material for toys.

Tactile Toys

Tactile Sensory Balls



Tactile sensory balls are created with a bouncy core of felt ball covered by 3D textiles. Bells are added into felt balls to create audio sensory interest. The balls are palm sized to make them suitable for children to play with. The purpose of this set of toys is to enhance their tactile senses and improve their motor skills.

Tactile Runway



The purpose of the Tactile Runway is for children to overcome their sensory disorder by stepping on a set of tactile terrains. As the foot receives a myriad of tactile senses, the Tactile Runway is most effective when incorporated into the sensory diet of a child under the guidance of an occupational therapist.