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<td><strong>Author(s)</strong></td>
<td>Cheong, Tong Pei</td>
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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 e.g. oversensitive, undersensitive 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 their body and inability to perform tasks with hands without looking.

/ 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 insensitivity and unhealthy sensory appetite. Treatment involving these toys also help them improve their social skills.

**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.

/ Advantages

- Tactile 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 fiber dyes have minimal or absent non-fibrous,bioactive dyes. On top of that, there has been research that shows that polyester fabrics (dye with dispersed dyes containing tinplate have anti-microbial properties. This adds to the advantage of using textile as a material for toys.

/ Design Solution

Use of textiles 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**

- Berry
- Sloppy
- Fuzzy
- Dinky
- Bouxy

**Project Title:** Tactile Textiles-using Textiles as a Source of Tactile and Touch Therapy for Children who are Suffering from Tactile Sensory Dysfunction. 
**Supervisor:** Asst Prof Hong Li Tsing

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