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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. For example, children who suffer from tactile sensory dysfunction may have over-sensitive or under-responsive touch sensitivity.

/ Target Audience
Children suffering from sensory processing disorders:

- Sensory Modulation Disorder: Children who over-respond, under-respond, or show a tactile processing disorder that is not under their control. For example, they may constantly seek touch or have difficulty controlling their touch responses.

- Sensory Discrimination Disorder: Children who have difficulty processing tactile information. They may have difficulty determining what is touching their body and are unable 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 a 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 fabric toys have minimal or almost non-existent hazardous risks. On top of that, there has been research that shows that polyester textiles (dyes with dispersing dyes containing thiourea have anti-microbial properties. This adds to the advantage of using textiles as a material for toys.

Design Solution
Use of textiles to create a range of tactile toys. The choice of fabrics in this project are polymers or organs and textiles because of its ability to be moulded in to a variety of tactile sensory textures.

Choice of Colours
- Red
- Blue
- Orange
- Green
- Yellow
- Pink
- Brown
- Yellow
- Blue

Types of Tactile Textures
- Berry
- Berry
- Berry
- Berry
- Berry

Project Title: 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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