

Berkeley Primary School
SEND Newsletter May 2024
By Teresa Suddaby and Jenna King
FOCUS: Sensory Experiences



Hello and welcome to our next SEND newsletter. Each term we produce a newsletter to help develop your knowledge of SEND. We will share information in regards to what support is available in school, locally and information about the teams that we work alongside. Alongside these newsletters we will also be planning and facilitating a range of workshops and information sessions whilst continuing to host regular SEND coffee mornings.

Sensory Experiences - Key Message

Sensory experiences are key to a child's development as it forms most of their early learning experiences. These experiences should be built upon as children grow and develop. These experiences are what help the children to learn about themselves and the world around them. It helps improve the cognitive, physical, social and emotional well-being of our young people. As children get older it is often forgotten about or takes a back seat to more formal learning methods. When this happens we often begin to see sensory differences which may not have been identified before and can lead to children feeling left out. When this happens we must quickly identify the sensory need and ensure some form of outlet is put in place whether this be some form of movement break e.g. getting up from their desk to jump or something less noticeable like a fidget toy or spinner.



There are many things which affect a child's ability to make the most of their sensory experiences but here are a few things you can do to help them develop these:



- Comment on the things you can see, hear, smell, taste and feel as opportunities arise and ask your child what they can see, hear, smell, taste and feel.
- Ensure there are not too many available activities as children can become overstimulated.
- Start with familiar activities and add new ones as children become more confident.
- Try to use activities that cover a range of senses.
- Take the time to join in with your child if they are happy for you to, as this can also often lead to quality interactions.

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Sensory Experiences at Berkeley Primary School

Here at Berkeley we are always gaining support and advice about meeting children's sensory needs and have made many new developments since September.

All Reception and Year 1 children now take part in 'dough disco' which involves them using play dough and following a routine often accompanied by music to develop their fine motor skills in preparation for writing.



We have four nurture rooms in our school, one in each building. These have been designed with the age group accessing them in mind. Our nursery nurture room is filled with soft climbing blocks. In reception, we have an inflatable space at present which children can bounce in and has soft climbing blocks. We are also in the process of developing another nurture room in reception. In the infant and junior building nurture room, we have sensory lights, mirrors, spinning top, peanut balls, beanbags, cuddly toys and soft mats.

Simple Sensory Activities to try:

Please see below some helpful websites which contain lots of easy to implement sensory activities:

- <https://activeforlife.com/20-outdoor-sensory-play-activities/>
- <https://www.learning4kids.net/play-ideas/exploring-activities/list-of-sensory-play-ideas/>
- <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/sensory-play-ideas-kids>

WHO TO CONTACT IN
THE SCHOOL?

Teresa Suddaby (SENDCO)
Jenna King (SENDCO Support)

If in doubt ... talk to someone

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