



Sensory Integration Room



Southfields Primary School's sensory room provides a safe, non-threatening environment in order to calm or stimulate children through each of the senses. Many children need the controlled environmental stimulation to engage in appropriate sensory activities. It is also a space where children can experience and learn the pre-requisite skills to some curriculum activities.

Sensory rooms are specifically designed environments which create a very wide range of sensory experiences for children with additional needs in order to provide:

- Therapy
- Relaxation
- Learning and fun
- Development of hand-eye co-ordination
- Understanding 'cause and effect'

A Sensory Room should:

- Provide a sensory managed environment
- Provide an environment that stimulates the senses and heightens awareness and promotes relaxation
- Provide an interesting atmosphere to encourage children to explore their environment
- Provide an atmosphere where children feel able to enjoy themselves

Before using the Sensory Room staff should have screened the children using the 'Movement Ability Profile (MAP) from the Smart Moves motor skills development programme. The screening helps to highlight particular motor skills difficulties and therefore the areas to target.

Staff should begin each session by the children sitting down in the Sensory Room and explaining the profile of the session.