

Active Learning Strategies for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment and Complex Needs

Hanging Frames

Hanging frames provide opportunity for incidental / intended movements of hands / arms as items hang from a frame. The idea is that with interaction and body awareness developing / being supported, pupils may be encouraged to look and develop their vision further. Possible items can include:

CDs, reflective baubles, bells, real objects like spoons, brush, pom poms, balloons, tinsel/ beads (being careful that the length doesn't become a hazard- keep it short!), material, black and white circles / patterns, balls.

One pupil I worked with had fairy lights wrapped tightly around the frame with a switch so he could activate them which looked quite effective. Doesn't need to be as long as image below- just gives few ideas of how one can be set up.



Sensory Light & Touch Bridge



Tactile Mats / Tabards

Again these give pupils opportunity to develop body awareness and explore items within reach. Again care needs to be given that items are securely fastened on and also of a size that can't be swallowed. Possible ideas: hair brushes, dish scourers, fabric- silky/ furry etc, bangles, spoon, bells



Texture mats: have contrasting materials on card to then be placed on work trays and allow pupils to explore different textures/ observe responses. Could try: fake grass, bubble wrap, sandpaper, silky, corrugated card, carpet samples quite good, wood / laminate samples you can get for free from some websites.

UV Colour Tent- Use of colour blocking can help some children to develop vision it is believed. Research is being carried out to investigate this further by professionals in CVI (Gordon Dutton and Suzanne Little). Some children with light perception had exposure to a colour blanket and stilled/ changed breathing patterns and behaviours .

Websites which might help give a few more ideas:

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/#>

Few ideas on pinterest which often lists posts from pathstoliteracy / Perkins School for the Blind.

Hanging rails can be the mobile wardrobe frames as long as they are risk assessed and ensured that they are stable enough to be used with staff on hand to monitor use. The images below just to give an idea about possible structures but I can't say how sturdy they are to use!



Argos Home Foldable Clothes Rail - Chrome

★★★★★ (265)

£18.00

 **Add to Trolley**



Argos Home Double Adjustable Clothes Rail - Silver

★★★★★ (1633)

£15.00

 **Add to Trolley**

