AT for People with Sensory Disabilities

Danny Housley
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AMAC Accessibility

AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and web accessibility solutions.
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- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information: [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)
Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.
Professional Development

Tools for Life offers online professional development to help you learn more about assistive technology strategies and solutions as well as the most recent information on AT devices and disability related issues and trends.

Webinar content and materials are developed and presented by one of the Tools for Life team members along with other regional and national leaders in the assistive technology community.

To join the TFL mailing list to receive our email announcements, visit www.gatfl.gatech.edu
What AT is the right AT?
Snoezelen Rooms

• 1970s, Netherlands

• Very common in Germany

• Seeing more in the US

• Soothing

• Stimulate as many senses as possible

• Person is generally accompanied (“enabling practitioner”)

• Non-directive therapy
Sensory Assessments

- Take time
- Many different methods
- All about experimentation
- Focus on one sense at a time
Further Resources

- National Autism Standards- UK
  

- Sensory Processing Disorder Checklist- Winnie Dunn, Ph.D, OTR, FAOTA
  
Sensory Based Approach

Every Move Counts Click and Chats

Jane Edgar Korsten, MS/SLP
Terry Vernon Foss, M. Ed.
Lisa Mayer Berry, MOTR/L
Rating System

0 = no response

1 = positive response

2 = negative response

Gustatory responses should be administered after each section.
Vestibular and Proprioceptive

**Vestibular** - Sense of balance
Side to side, front to back, rotary and up and down

**Proprioceptive** - position and movement of the body
Tactile and Visual

**Tactile**- relating to sense of touch
Provide stimulus for 10 seconds, withdraw for 5 seconds

**Visual**- field of vision
Move stimulus through all four quadrants for 2-3 seconds, withdraw for 5. Careful sound is not included
Auditory and Olfactory

**Auditory**- relating to hearing
Play sound at midline behind and slightly above head. 10 secs for music, 3 for noise

**Olfactory**- relating to smell.
20 seconds between items. Use scented and unscented items to tell the difference between reflexive and purposeful
Gustatory - relating to taste. Do not administer if NPO (nothing by mouth). Suckers are a good method. Do not force rejected items. Self feeders should set their pace.
Visual Disabilities
AT for People with Visual Disabilities
Hearing Disabilities
AT for Hearing
Stimulating the Senses
Light and UV Reactive Options
Texture and Movement
Sound and Taste
Apps for the Senses
White Noise

• Free

• Nature sounds, fan, traffic, variety of options

• Can use your music library

• Timed
Midnight HD

- .99 cents
- Particle simulator
- iPad
- Can use up to ten fingers to create shapes, alter particle flow, etc
Procreate

- $5.99
- Drawing/painting app
- Fingers/stylus/apple pencil
- Art without the mess/sensory overload
Questions?
Comments?
Small Jokes?
The Tools for Life Team (continued)

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Disclaimer

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