

## *1. The Senses and Multisensory Learning*

# The Importance of Multisensory Learning

# What is Multisensory Learning?

- Often we teach through just one sense such as vision (reading text) or sound (listening to instruction).



# What is Multisensory Learning?

- Multisensory learning teaches using **more** than one sense at a time
- It involves using at least two, if not more, different sensory stimuli in a learning activity





# How Does Multisensory Learning Help?

- Multisensory learning supports a learner to maintain and develop their sensory skills.
- For example, visual stimulation keeps the part of the brain which processes visual information working. With no visual stimulation, the brain might lose the ability to process the visual information it receives.



# How Does Multisensory Learning Help?

- Multisensory learning gives learners more than one way to learn a new skill or develop understanding and every child a chance to succeed.



# How Does Multisensory Learning Help?

- It teaches them through multiple senses so enriches their understanding
- Multisensory teaching supports all children in a class no matter how they learn.



# Who does Multisensory Learning Benefit?

- Multisensory learning can be helpful for all learners.
- It can be especially supportive for a range of learners with SEND including those with speech, language and communication issues, attention and many learning difficulties.



# Who does Multisensory Learning Benefit?

- These learners may find it more difficult to process information through only reading (visual) or listening (audio).
- Using multisensory learning can help them collect information, problem solve and make connections.



# Multisensory Learning: An Example

- For example, a class might be learning about *Life Under the Sea*.
- If they were learning through a single sense, they might just be looking at pictures of different sea creatures or hearing about them.



# Multisensory Learning: An Example

- Multisensory learning of this topic might give them an opportunity to hear the waves or sea creatures, feel the water or sand or even see what life could be like under the sea using a sensory tent or umbrella and projection.
- Their learning experience would be much fuller and more enriching, particularly for learners with SEND



# Modifying Multisensory Stimulus

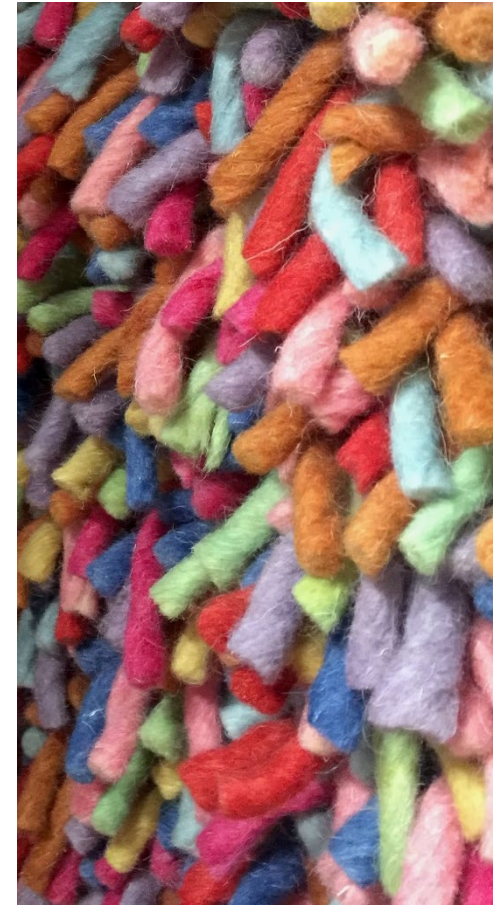
- Multisensory learning can help individuals learn through their learning and sensory strengths.
- It is important to offer specific sensory stimulation activities which suit a learner's sensory skills and needs.





# Modifying Multisensory Stimulus

- For example, for a learner with good physical hand skills, but poor hearing, we can use vibration from a speaker inside a car wash mitt, to make sound more accessible and meaningful. In this activity, the learner's tactile and hearing senses are being encouraged to develop and work together.



# Developing a Multisensory Curriculum

- For more information on developing a multisensory curriculum, supporting learners with particular SEND, utilising helpful equipment and modifying your environment, go to further sections in [www.multisensory.lgfl.net](http://www.multisensory.lgfl.net) and other relevant content such as [www.movementforlearning.lgfl.net](http://www.movementforlearning.lgfl.net) .