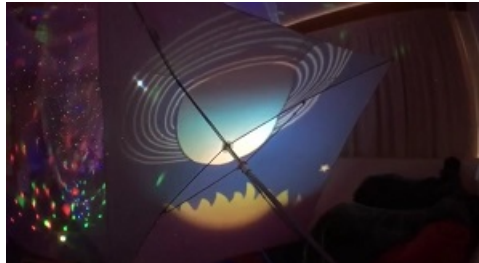


Module 6: Video 6 Transcript, Multisensory Learning

All Information on Multisensory Rooms



Many schools have wonderful sensory corners, but dedicated multi sensory rooms can be a great option for some schools.

They come in all shapes, sizes, complexities and costs.

For those on a bigger budget, they can be designed and installed by a professional sensory companies, or an audio visual company can supply and fit the equipment.

But these days, many sensory rooms can be created with less expensive equipment at a cheaper cost.

Although a professionally installed room is fantastic, you can sometimes create amazing spaces on a much smaller budget as you will see in this module.

Big rooms work well for special and mainstream schools who want to use the room for group work but most spaces are going to be much smaller. These are ideal for one to one work or smaller groups.

If the size of the room isn't up to you don't worry because whatever the size, you can still create a magic space.

These days we often use ivory rather than white simply because it doesn't show the hand prints and instead of a black wall, we often use blue, which is a much more friendly colour.

These colour contrasts in the room, three ivory walls and one dark blue wall, are good for learners who have a visual loss. The colours can also help a person with autism gain spatial awareness.

As you saw in the last movie, most of our walls are lighter colours so it's a good idea to have a dark contrasting plain washable carpet or floor covering of your choice.

Blackout is essential for any multi sensory room. If you have no windows, then it's not a problem. But if you have, then some fire retardant blackout curtains will stop unwanted light and distractions, spoiling your visual effects.

A place to hang things in a room can help to make to space look much more friendly and make things more accessible for wheelchair users. These professional rigs are wonderful, but you could simply have string from wall to wall or like this you could be a little more creative.

A place for everything and everything in its place is we that we were always told, but if we have good storage and shelving in the multisensory room, it means that things are less likely to be lost and we can keep our sound systems, our iPads, our power switches and smaller sensory items away from prying eyes and fingers.

There are lots of things that require 13amp plug sockets in sensory rooms. The rule is simple, avoid trailing cables. You will need both low level and high level sockets, as shown here.

If you have high level equipment, make sure that it's not just close to a socket, but avoid cables hanging down the wall. And always fit safety cables to high level appliances so that they can't fall from the shelf.

Lastly, always have too many sockets rather than too few and avoid using those dreaded extension leads.

Multi sensory rooms can be quite expensive to create, but they can be a valuable addition for a special or mainstream school.

Choosing the right equipment for your needs and your budget is important.

Like any equipment, when it comes to sensory equipment, you are better off having less good quality items than lots of cheap things so in the following section we will try to give you some ideas of what you need and how much it will cost you to create a good quality sensory room.

The first thing most people see in a sensory room is a bubble tube and there are two different types of tubes.

There are the professional tubes which can cost around £500 and some which have switches to control the colours and bubbles, with a good quality switchable bubble tube often costing £1000

However, there are also domestic grade bubble tubes which are much cheaper often found in shops for under £50.

Bubble tubes have been popular for nearly 30 years because they are a great tool for relaxation, visual stimulation and touch work for learners who may be tactile defensive.

There are two different types of projectors used in multi sensory rooms. Projectors which can be used with an iPad or computer which we will look at later in the module and wheel projectors like this.

They have been used in rooms for many years and still work well. The image is projected through a printed glass or, more often, a plastic disc which sounds archaic, but it's reliable and there are hundreds of variously themed discs that you can buy. They can be projected onto walls, sheets, even white umbrellas to get the image close to the learner.

The cheaper projectors start at around £150 and the more commonly used projectors will cost you around £500 when you have added some of the accessories.

The reason why fibre optics have been popular in sensory rooms for over 30 years is because they are cold, there is no heat and no electricity in the cables, so they are very safe to handle.

From a multi sensory company, they will cost in the region of £400 upwards for a good quality effect.

You will need some kind of sound system for your sensory room and a company could install a great fixed system for you. These days, many people will opt for a portable sound but don't buy cheap. Get one that costs around £150 upwards. That may sound costly, but learners with a hearing loss need a good quality sound.

This kind of speaker is both portable and connected to a tablet, a computer or a phone via a cable or bluetooth for the ultimate flexibility.

You can use an iPad connected to a fixed or portable projector in a sensory room and the results are stunning. There are many apps which will all give you varied effects for all kinds of learners as they experience relaxation apps or roller coaster rides from YouTube.

You could add other pieces of equipment like the mirror ball shown in this room but even with a small amount of equipment like this, your multi sensory room can be a magic space for learners of all abilities.