

Module 7: Video 8 Transcript, Multisensory Learning

Sensory Corners and 'Sensory on a Shoestring'

Clonker Boards



Just before we get going with this movie I must tell you that clonker boards are normally used on the floor. I have shown mine on the table just to make it easier to film.

Always use clonker boards on the floor.

A clonker' board is designed to create resonance, in other words vibration...Sound that you can feel.

They are great for learners with a hearing loss to enable them to feel the sound of music or rolling steel ball or a wooden train as they roll across the surface.

As this toy robot makes its way toward the camera, listen to how loud its sounds. That's the trick of sound resonance on the board.

They are made from a square or rectangular piece of plywood at least 1/8 of an inch thick or just over 3 mm and raised off the ground with batons which measure 46mm x 15mm.

A good size is 4 feet square, but this can be enlarged or reduced.

If it's too small, then resonant qualities will reduce dramatically; too large a square and the center of the board will sag and touch the floor when an individual's weight is on it, dampening the resonance.

Naomi Rosenberg told me that the board should bend slightly downwards with the weight of the learner, which will make beads, balls and other objects roll towards them.

The upper surface and edges of the clonker board are very smooth and it may be painted or polished. Naomi, a world authority on clonker boards, suggests using scented wax polish (such as lavender) to add a consistent smell as an extra marker to identify the board.

A black clonker board will give a good visual contrast, a white board will reflect light. Perhaps the board could be painted to represent the story/poem or music that you are using in class?

Clonker boards are easy to make and they are fantastic for our learners who need amplified sound or who have hearing loss and would like to just practice listening or join in listening.