

Sensational Toddler/Preschooler OT Tip of the Month Sensory Environment

Do you know toddlers/preschoolers that...

1. Seem upset by changes in the classroom setup?
2. Gravitate to a certain area of the room regardless of the activity?
3. Seem more engaged in certain settings at school?
4. Need to be close to an adult to feel comfortable?

These children may have sensory differences that make them more aware of or impacted by the sensory environment. By watching where they play and learn best, you can get some insight into their sensory preferences as well as interests and motivation.

Sensational ideas for evaluating your classroom's sensory environment:

1. Is there a quiet corner with uncluttered walls and space to relax?
2. Are there tactile opportunities that allow free, unstructured exploration with hands or tools?
3. Is there designated space and acceptance of playful movement within parameters of safety?
4. Do children feel safe – not bombarded by sound and unexpected change?

For more information refer to the book:

Sensory Integration: A Guide for Preschool Teachers by Christy Isbell and Rebecca Isbell.

[Click here](#) for more tip sheets for preschool and school age classrooms at www.cintiOTinstitute.com/tipofthemonth . For information about occupational therapy services at COTI go to www.cintiOTinstitute.com.

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