Calming and Alerting Sensory Activities

Sensory Area	Calming Activities Warm familiar predictable firm pressure touch, tight wrap	Alerting Activities Unexpected light touch, cold rough texture, moving of hair
Tactile	 Wear weighted vests or ankle weights Snuggle under blankets Play with resistive putty Stroke oft toy fur animal Hold fidget, stress ball Propped on elbows laying on the floor 	 Sustain light touch to palm of the hand Hold/manipulate cold items Gently and quickly rub the skin Take a cool shower or wash face with cool washcloth Receive a light back scratch Pet a dog or cat Handle fidget items Intermittent use of a fan
Sensory Area	Calming Activities Heavy sustained resistance compression, slow stretch	Alerting Activities Fast, quick, unexpected changes, stops or starts abruptly
Proprioceptive	 Wear weighted vests or ankle weights Snuggle under blankets Play with resistive putty Stroke soft toy fur animal Hold fidget, stress ball 	 Sustain light touch to palm of the hand Hold/manipulate cold items Gently and quickly rub the skin Take a cool shower or wash face with cool washcloth Receive a light back scratch Pet a dog or cat Handle fidget items Intermittent use of a fan
Sensory Area	Calming Activities Slow, rhythmic linear movement	Alerting Activities Rapid or jerky angular movement
Vestibular	 Slow rhythmical swinging, rocking, barreling or rolling Jump on trampoline or do jumping jacks Rock in a rocking chair Roll back and forth in a barrel Take a break to do an errand Swing in a hammock 	 Quick start/stop swinging, bouncing, spinning, rolling or rocking Jump on trampoline or do jumping jacks Ride a scooter down a ramp Sit and bounce on a therapy ball Stand and twirl in a circle Bend over and place head between legs Do somersaults and cartwheels
Sensory Area	Calming Activities Odors associated with pleasurable comforting experience	Alerting Activities All odors tend to be alerting
Olfactory	 Burn a vanilla scented candle (under supervision) Smell potpourri in the classroom Incorporate preferred scents within academic tasks (eg writing with scented pen) Use scented crayons or markers 	 Use scented lotion or soap between activities Spray a citrus room deodorizer before academic activities Use scented materials in projects Receive scratch-and-sniff stickers as a

Calming and Alerting Sensory Activities

Sensory Area	Calming Activities Eating chewing, sucking and blowing activities	Alerting Activities Eat crunchy, sour, chewy, salty or cold foods
Gustatory	 Chew or suck mild flavors - suckers, hard candy, or chew toys Suck thick liquids through a straw Drink from a sports water bottle Chew/suck on a keychain, necklace, pen top Play a musical instrument Blow whistles, bubbles, feathers, balloons, cotton balls, etc. Drink warm liquids Engage in eating chewing, sucking and blowing activities Engage in blowing activities paired with eye-tracking exercises (blowing pong ball with straw) 	 Eat crunchy foods, such as pretzels, ice, carrots, celery, apples Eat chewy foods, such as licorice, taffy, beef jerky, gum Blow whistles, bubbles, feathers, balloons, cotton balls, etc. Eat ice or popsicles Keep a water bottle with cold water on desk Eat sour, chewy, salty or cold foods Engage in eating chewing, sucking and blowing activities Drink ice water
Sensory Area	Calming Activities Familiar or quiet gentle, sing0song rhythm, low tones	Alerting Activities
Auditory	 Listen to quiet music with slow, even beat Listen to soft singing or humming Cover ears when a loud or unexpected noise happens Work in a quiet environment Use headphones to shield from noise 	 Listen to music with varied pitch, sound loudness or uneven/fast beat Speak with animated high and low voice Enjoy frequent opportunities to examine novel sound-producing toys (eg chimes, squeeze toys, rain stick) Prepare in advance for loud/strange noises Use sound-producing materials to complete classroom projects
Sensory Area	Calming Activities Unchanging stimuli, subtle or subdued patterns	Alerting Activities Peripheral vision, bright colors or lights, unexpected sights
Visual	 Work in dim lights or lights turned off Block distractions using, screen, room divider, or study carrel Wear sunglasses Provide visual materials such as a glitter wand, oil and water toys, fish tank Work at distraction-free desk Work in soft or limited light and pastel colors 	 Work in bright lights Use a flashlight to point or highlight important information Use brightly colored paper Use a highlighter to underline important text Use colored chalk Use slant board to place materials at an angle

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