



Effective Classroom Strategies for Students with Disabilities

Strategy 3: Creating a Sensory Supportive Classroom

Creating a Sensory Supportive Classroom

Build in opportunities for movement during daily routines.

Collaborate with related service providers.

Create a calm environment.



Co-Plan with general education teachers to create hands-on lessons.

Allow all students access to sensory supportive items as appropriate, such as seating choice.

Build in Opportunities for Movement

“It’s hard to pay attention when you are not allowed to move for extended periods of time. Movement turns the brain on to pay attention.”

-Angela Hanscom

Pediatric Occupational Therapist

- Movement benefits all students;
- Make movement breaks part of the daily routine;
- Give students the choice to stand and work as needed; and
- Work with related service providers to create sensory pathways.

Engagement Through Movement



Co-plan with the general education team to look at unit lessons and think through how movement can be incorporated.



Collaborate to develop active participation strategies for whole group learning.

Calm and Sensory Supportive Classroom

Create a calm classroom space free of visual clutter; less is more.

Take into consideration when a poster, anchor chart or bulletin board can be a portable resource kept with students instead.

Be mindful of where students are sitting to decrease inattention as much as possible.

Use soft lighting or light filters.

Teach expectations for volume level.

Build mindfulness and calming activities into the daily routine.

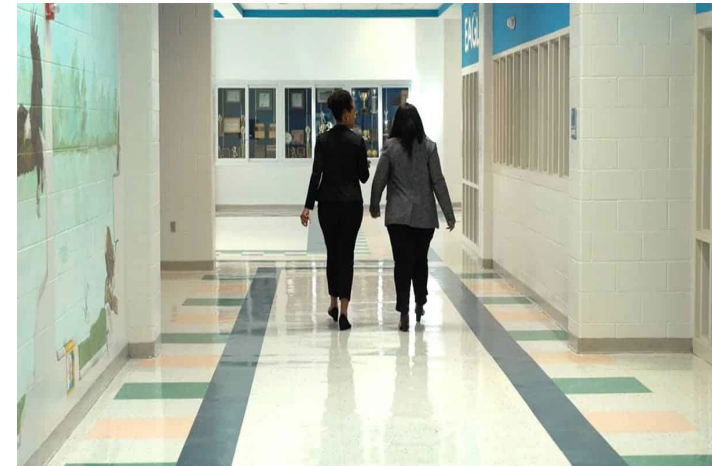
Have a space for students who prefer to work independently away from the group.



Sensory Strategies for Younger Students



Sensory Strategies for Older Students



Additional Resources

- [Kentucky Department of Education \(KDE\) Autism Guidance](#)
- [Meeting Sensory Needs For Diverse Learners part 1 video: Kentucky Autism Training Center video](#)
- [Meeting Sensory Needs For Diverse Learners part 2 video: Kentucky Autism Training Center Video](#)
- [Embracing Sensory Diversity: The Importance of Sensory Spaces and How to Create Them: Kentucky Autism Training Center Video](#)

Contact Information

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