

Sensory Integration: A Building Block for Childhood Development

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Abstract

Our objective was to encourage positive social-emotional development in children in early education classrooms. We created a sensory board as a method for increasing creativity and sensory integration and to provide a therapeutic outlet for children demonstrating challenging behaviors. Interviews with teachers and staff revealed that the sensory board was well-liked by children, consistently utilized, effective in defusing challenging behaviors, and enabled teachers to implement sensory integration into daily curriculum.



Brighton Center Partnership

Mission: Help families attain self-sufficiency

& **achieve their dreams** through various support programs

- Northern Kentucky Scholar House
- Early Scholars Childhood Development Center

Project Goals/ Service Objectives	Interview Results
Encourage development of appropriate coping skills in children at Early Scholars	Lela (Case Manager) - If there is a “different behavior than usual,” the board can catch a child’s attention.
Provide teachers an opportunity to facilitate exploration	Brittany (Scholar House Director) - Children with “strong personalities” are now able to enjoy Scholar House workshops with more teacher attention.
Construct a sensory board that will provide long term utility	Lauren (Brighton Center Director) - “[The sensory board] provides flexibility in an ever-changing center.”
Help children meet socioemotional & developmental milestones	Leah (Teacher) - The board also allows younger children to start practicing fine motor skills.
Help teachers work alongside children to further develop skills	Lisa (Teacher) - “Having the sensory board creates an additional activity that can stretch into the evening hours”

Learning Objectives

Gain appreciation for community partner impact
Explore implications of social determinants of health
Practice collaboration and innovation

Methods

Pre-project interviews of Early Scholars Childhood Development Center staff to identify determinant of health most in need:

Need: Behavior & Coping Skills

Proposed Solution: Sensory Board, Introduced on February 12, 2019

Post-project interviews to assess impact

Discussion

The sensory board is in use during pick-up, drop-off, and during workshops for most age groups at Scholar House.

Benefits:

Redirects/calms challenging behavior
Integration into sensory-based curriculum
Additional after-hours activity

Customizable and mobile

Future Goals:

Add electronic/digital component
Track developmental milestones

Acknowledgments

A special thanks to Lauren Copeland for helping our team throughout the design process and connecting us with the Newport, KY community.

References

- Brighton Center. A Community of Support. brightoncenter.com/who_we_are
- Northern Kentucky Scholar House. brightoncenter.com/programs/scholar_house