

SENSORY PROVISION



Sensory processing is the ability to organise sensory information coming through touch, movement, sight and sound for use in daily life and also the ability to respond in an appropriate way. If a child has problems with this they have difficulty taking in organising and processing sensory information which can affect behaviour, influence the way they learn, move, relate to others and feel about themselves.



We're all familiar with the '5' senses of sight, touch, hearing, smell and taste but in addition to this we look at the children's



vestibular and proprioceptive senses. The vestibular sense provides unconscious awareness of position and movement in space, it



detects head movement and gravitational pull so tells us if we are upside down or the right way up. Children who are struggling with their vestibular system may rock, spin and pace or alternately be floppy and lean on things a lot. Proprioception system tells us how a muscle is contracting, how much tension and force is being used and is about rate timing and sequencing of movement. Children who are struggling with their proprioceptive system will seek intense inputs into muscles through pushing, pulling, jumping or hanging and if they have to sit still they may be in a floppy heap.

We recognise these problems in many of our children and have established an environment which has the resources and facilities to support them in this area. Intervention helps the child process all the senses so they can work together and provides the quality of sensation that the children need to improve their sensory processing which should



impact positively on their lives.