Sensory Room

Summary

When first opened in 1999, the MOSS Sensory Room was a state-of-the-art room designed to develop our students’ senses through a wide range of highly expensive multi-sensory equipment including special lighting, music, and objects.

To maximise the potential of this wonderful resource, it is imperative that all the equipment is in good working order, teaching staff know how to use the equipment correctly for the benefit of our students, and that the Room is regularly revitalised to increase the sensory learning opportunities for our students.

To this end, we have reviewed the rationale behind our Sensory Room, completed a stocktake of existing equipment, made a list of repairs required, developed a proposal for reinvigorating and upgrading our Sensory Room, and identified the need for further training for staff and the establishment of a Protocol outlining conditions of use of the Room.

Action required

1) Repairs

- Contact a Spacekraft representative/tradesperson and book a consultation re existing equipment: what can be fixed and how; what can/should be replaced. (Kerrie – UCC, Claremont Special School; Jen – ICL, Wilkins.)
- Check with school what funds are currently available for repairs and maintenance of Sensory Room. Ensure there is provision made at beginning of 2017 for repairs and on-going maintenance that cannot be funded this year. (Chrissy/Mike/Sarah)

2) Upgrade

- Seek P&C endorsement of funding plan for new equipment (Jen to present at P&C meeting on 3 August with support from Kerrie & Chrissy).
- Provide info and seek feedback on proposed new equipment from staff (Chrissy to advise staff via KIT in early August).

3) Going forward

- Once Upgrade is being completed, establish a Protocol for the use of the Sensory Room, covering training for new and existing staff, expectations re clean-up of room after use, logging repairs etc.
- In-service training to be provided on Sensory Processing and how the Sensory Room can be best utilised in line with educational and therapeutic goals for our students.
Rationale for the MOSS Sensory Room

Everyone has particular ways of responding to sensory events in everyday life. Sensory input from the environment and from the body provides information the brain uses to understand experiences and organise responses. Your senses integrate to form a complete understanding of who you are, where you are and what is happening around you. “Sensory processing is the normal neurological function that all people experience when their brain processes sensory information from the environment around them.” (A.J. Ayres). Sensory information is visual, tactile, auditory, olfactory, gustatory, vestibular and proprioceptive.

Dr. A Jean Ayres, pioneer of sensory integration, recognised that impaired sensory integration interferes with learning and development in students. Sensory processing differences can occur across all impairments and are specific to that student. It is important to understand a student’s sensory processing pattern and select and design activities and environments that will accommodate his/her sensory needs. It is critical that the sensory program is student-directed, engaging and creative based on the student’s individual strengths.

The upgrade of the Sensory Room will enable all of our students to access a sensory rich environment that will cater to their sensory needs and learning strengths. The room will include active learning experiences as well as opportunities to experience the room by being immersed in a range of sensory experiences catering for all the senses and students’ preferences. Note: the Sensory Room is not designed to be an additional gym facility, music room or general storage area.

Stocktake

Items currently contained in MOSS Sensory Room include:

- LED Interactive Infinity Tunnel (Spacekraft)
- Fluoro Aquarium (Spacekraft)
- Fibre Optic curtain
- LED Mirage Projector (Spacekraft) + 6” Effect Wheel Rotator + Wheels?
- Soundbeam (uses sensor technology + keyboard to translate body movement into music and sound, giving students the opportunity to play music regardless of their impairments or disability)
- Revolving mirror ball
- Soft mats fixed to walls
- Soundbox resonator (pg 48 Wilkins catalogue)
- Sensory lightbox (portable coloured cube) x2? [Glitter shapes/letters – where kept?]
- Couches (Softplay modular furniture) and floor mats
- Bubble Tube + switches
- Corner mirror

Already achieved:

- Room freshly painted and air-conditioning fixed in 2014.
Repairs required:

- LED Interactive Infinity Tunnel – only works sporadically.
- Wheel Rotator for light projector (replaceable or too old?).
- Soundbox resonator (electrical connection missing?)
- Soundbeam - storage cabinet for keyboard and controllers/switches broken, unclear whether equipment is in working order. Consider appropriateness for Sensory Room or other dedicated music space?
- Black and white curtains currently falling off curtain tracks around the walls: remove. Was designed to create a darkened space, but likelihood of curtains being pulled down & system wrecked again in future = high. ‘Snoezelen’ rooms traditionally painted white, but seek feedback on suggestion of painting half room black, half white. Alternative = small sensory hideaway den (see below), and half-height curtains to add interest.
- Move powerpoints out of reach of small mobile students (electrician, approved by DET?).

**Proposed new purchases:**

To fill the gaps, ie provide interesting and interactive equipment that our students want to engage with:

- Ultimate Steplite ($5362 excl GST, delivery & installation)  pg 38 Wilkins catalogue
  
  *Greater Springfield Rotary Club has agreed to put $5500 grant towards this purchase.*
- Sensory Hideaway Den ($374.50) pg 73 Wilkins catalogue + UV Ripple Mat ($1733.50) pg 151 Wilkins catalogue. Both 1m x 1m.

  Proposal: Bendigo crowd-funding platform to raise funds for the Ripple Mat and Centenary Rotary donation of $300 to be put towards Sensory Hideaway den.

- Tactile Corridor Panel ($660, 90cm x 60cm from TecSol).

  Proposal: Estée Lauder fundraiser proceedings (just over $700) to go towards this Panel; the balance to go towards the Sensory Hideaway Den above.
- Activity Wall ($1240 for 9 panel base model, 100cm x 94cm x 30cm from TecSol)
- Wall Panels (ranging in price from $100-$440, 30cm x 30cm from TecSol) to go on the Activity Wall.

**Proposal:** Use part of the proceeds from B&K market to fund Activity Wall (base model); seek funding from friends, families, sponsors, corporates for individual panels, including a display at “The Art of Inclusion” on 14 September.

- Olfactory scent diffuser ($132 from TecSol)

  **Proposal:** from existing P&C funds.
- Bean bags (2 x $120 each, hard-wearing marine vinyl from Bean Bags Brisbane)

  Proposal: from existing P&C funds/ proceeds from B&K market.

- Half-height curtains, different materials (to go on existing curtain tracks) $100 max but could use existing white net curtain once fixed.

  Proposal: from existing P&C funds (Jen to source/make).

Also considered but rejected:

- LED (Musical?) Touch Wall ($7294 excl GST, delivery & installation) pg 37 Wilkins catalogue – Steplite better, don’t need both.
- Noisy Farmyard board ($2941 excl GST, delivery & installation) pg 77 Wilkins catalogue – does not fit with objectives for room.
- Big Wheel Tactile Panel ($2065 excl GST, delivery & installation) pg 52 Wilkins catalogue (or UV Tactile Panel, pg 55 Wilkins catalogue) – larger FunFair Tactile Panel preferred.
- FunFair Tactile Panel ($5350 excl GST, delivery & installation) pg 53 Wilkins catalogue – more cost-effective Activity and Tactile Panels available via TecSol.
### Sensory Room Upgrade 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Requested</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>In-Kind Support</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensory Room Upgrade</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$5500</td>
<td>[$300]</td>
<td>Curtains Jen</td>
<td>[$2500] From 2016 B&amp;K Market proceeds</td>
<td>$5500 [$12,760]*</td>
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*Not all GST or delivery charges accounted for yet, hence total requested $15,000.

### Itemised Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost (GST &amp; delivery not included)</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate Steplite</td>
<td>$5362</td>
<td>Rotary Club of Greater Springfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity Wall</td>
<td>$1240</td>
<td>Bendigo Bank crowd-funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wall panels (9)</td>
<td>$100-$440 each</td>
<td>Family, friends, corporate sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tactile corridor panel</td>
<td>$660</td>
<td>Estée Lauder fundraiser</td>
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<td>Dark Den</td>
<td>$340</td>
<td>Centenary Rotary Club</td>
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<td>UV Ripple mat</td>
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<td>Beanbags (2)</td>
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<td>Diffuser</td>
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<td>(</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtains</td>
<td>$100</td>
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