

What is a sensory tool?

A sensory tool is a tool that students can use to help them focus and concentrate on schoolwork. A sensory tool can include things like:

- learning putty
- squeezies
- bendy toys
- wooden and metal fidgets
- kinetic sand
- puzzles
- weighted animals
- balls with flashing lights
- spiky balls
- stress balls



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How can these tools help students focus?

The short answer to the question: Brain Science

The brain has two sides, the left and the right hemispheres. The brain receives information through the senses: touch (tactile), taste, smell, sight (visual), hearing (auditory). Learning, memory, and concentration usually require cooperation from both hemispheres. Sensory learning tools help students to engage multiple areas of the brain at the same time.

Our toolkits enhance students' learning by providing fun and engaging tactile, visual and auditory learning tools.

The hand - brain connection is the connection that impacts a lot of students' learning. When students use their hands, the brain is stimulated in multiple areas which can help students focus and learn more effectively.

We offer several categories of toolkits for students age 5 and above. They include:

- Fine Motor ToolKit — for students who have difficulty controlling fingers and hands when writing or drawing.
- Sensory Integration (Multi-Sensory) ToolKit — for students who sometimes have too much energy and sometimes have too little energy while learning.
- Self-regulation: Calming ToolKit — for students who have too much energy while learning
- Self-regulation: Sensory Stimulation (Activating) ToolKit — for students who have too little energy while learning.
- Learning Break ToolKit provides students with a fun way to take a break and refocus so that they can return to learning with renewed energy.



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How do students use the tools?

IMPORTANT



Allow students to explore the learning kit items before using them as learning tools for the first time.

Firm Tactile Tools

Students should hold firm tactile tools in their hand/hands when listening and/or learning.

For example....If they are listening to something and trying to concentrate, they may use both hands to interact with the tool.

At other times, when writing, they might interact with the tool with the hand they are not writing with.

Some of these tools will require students to use both hands while listening: twistable plastic rope, bendy animals, turtle with hard shell, puzzle pieces, linking tiles, cubes.

Some firm tactile tools should be held in one hand while reading and writing: metal and plastic links, bicycle chains and wooden fidgets.

Animal Lap Weights

When seated and engaged in a learning activity, place one or two on lap or arm or shoulder for calming and focus support.

Tools for Learning Breaks

When students need a break from learning, set a timer and allow them to select sensory break item to play with during their learning break.

Students may use one or more items during a learning break.

While items in the Learning Break ToolKit are curated specifically for learning breaks, items could include any item from The DLTK toolkit.

We recommend, student should tap or shake flashing light learning tools to activate lights then watch lights for 5 seconds.



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How do students use the tools? (cont.)

Soft Tactile Tools (kinetic sand, learning putty, squeezies)

Soft tactile tools should be held in the students' hand when listening and/or learning.

For example....If they are listening to something and trying to concentrate, they may use both hands to interact with the tool.

At other times, when writing, they might interact with the tool with the hand they are not writing with.

Kinetic Sand

Kinetic sand is a moldable sand that will not stick to hands or dry out like regular sand.

Small kinetic sand is in a plastic bag. Use the package like you would use a stress ball.

Medium and large kinetic sand are in a resealable container. Use a craft stick, tongs, hands or any tool to draw in the sand and form shapes.

Learning Putty

Hold putty in hand(s) and form into shapes.

Open learning putty container 20 minutes before initial use. Putty can be smelled but not eaten.

Scent of scented putty may be strong initially. Scent will mellow after use. Putty should be stored in a closed container between uses.

Recommend discarding putty when it loses its original color and texture.

Squeezies

The squeezies come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors.

Students should hold and interact with the tool in their dominant hands when listening and learning.

The dominant hand is the hand used to write. The non-dominant hand is the other hand.



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