

Guide 5: Sensory study

Multi sensory learning is important for everyone. By stimulating our senses during learn more of our brain becomes involved in our learning, thus increasing our chances of understanding and remembering.

Sensory stimulation and repetition is especially important for students who access their learning in a sensory way. Such students (for example students with PMLD) need repetition of stimuli in order to maximise their chances of building neural pathways, this guidance will show you ways to do this to support your students' cognitive development.

If you are working with students who are operating above P level 3 you can choose to be a bit more flexible in the delivery of the stimuli. You can look to get your students involved in the delivery of the stimuli, and may find that after a couple of run throughs they are able to deliver the whole study collaboratively themselves.

Guidance for delivering the sensory study

Resources.

You will need:

- **A bucket**
- **Loose soil**
- **Potatoes**
- **A light source, such as a torch, with a halo of yellow card stuck around it to indicate that it represents the sun.**
- **A large bottle or jug to hold water.**
- **A glass or drinking beaker, preferably clear.**
- **A small watering can.**
- **The ability to play sound from the computer.**
- **A small portion of mashed potatoes.**

Ideally you will use exactly the same resources each time you deliver the study. With the non perishable items keeping them together in a bag or box until you've finished studying this topic is a good way of ensuring you always have them to hand. If this isn't possible try to make a note of precisely which beaker you used (e.g. if your school canteen has several colours of beaker use the same colour each time).

It will not be possible to use the same potatoes each time, but endeavour to get potatoes as similar to each other as possible, e.g. by choosing a particular variety. Also aim to make the mash to the same consistency. You are also aiming for the same temperature of mash each time you deliver the story, the easiest way to do this may well be to serve it cold.

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