

ACTIVE LEARNING

Actively Learning Through Play and Exploration



What is Active Learning?

Active learning is an approach to learning for children with multiple disabilities and visual impairments, developed by Dr. Lilli Nielson. The goal is to provide opportunities for children to actively explore and discover their environment. Through active learning children can develop; fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness and cause and effect, the learning is endless!

Sources: activelearningspace.org, Perkins School For the Blind

Five Principles of Active Learning

1. Let your child guide his or her own play
2. Provide plenty of opportunities and time to engage in the play
3. Choose materials that are appropriate for your child's skills
4. Choose materials that your child is interested in (e.g., certain textures, sounds, etc)
5. Limit any distractions. Shh... learning is in progress!

Tactile Exploration

OUR SENSE OF TOUCH is the first sense we develop and the only sense we can't turn off. Touch is very important for children with visual impairments, as it allows them to receive information and understand the world around them. There are many common household items that we can use as play things for our children to actively explore.

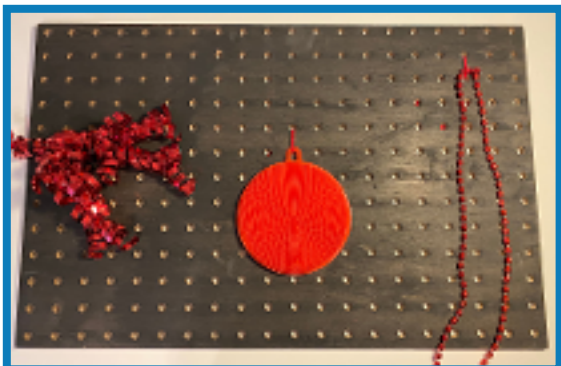


Sensory Tactile Board

Using old picture frames and various items of different textures (e.g face clothes, rubber mats, and pencil cases), replace the glass with the textured objects and let the exploring begin!



Find objects around the house that you think may interest your child and attach them to a cookie sheet or belt for easy access. Items can be placed within reach of your child's hands or feet. If your child has limited mobility or keeps his or her hands close to their face, attach items to a bracelet or loose hair tie. When they move their hands they will feel the items brush against their skin. ***Avoid using items that may become choking hazards.**



CVI Friendly

Using string and a black peg board, attach a small number of items in your child's preferred colour to the board. This can be attached to a tray or slant board to encourage looking and touching simultaneously. If your child requires light, shine a flashlight on the board to prompt him or her to look.

