The Sensory Projects

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Multi Sensory Rooms
What is going on?

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Knowledge + creativity = inexpensive + effective resources.
Facilitating the benefits of narrative in a sensory way.

Facilitating the benefits of art in a sensory way.

Sharing the benefits of mindfulness in a sensory way.

Promoting long term positive change for individuals and organisations.

Challenging ideas about communication and choice through an improvised immersive sensory environment.

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The stressed are relaxing, the silent are speaking, and the withdrawn are coming out of themselves.

Hirstwood and Gray 1995
With the dawning of immersive multi-sensory rooms: rooms with multi walled projections and interactive surfaces we are about to see a repeat of the research errors of the past, with substantive claims being made on the back of little to no actual evidence for their veracity. .....Progress will once again be driven by the available technology (Challis et al 2017), rather than by the abilities and needs of the users of the rooms.
The evidence we have about the effectiveness of multi-sensory rooms universally lacks the scientific rigour required to be counted as significant. (Fava and Strauss 2010)

There is a lot of research to indicate that positive effects may be triggered by MSR (multi-sensory rooms), but much of this is methodologically weak, whereas stronger studies conclude no effect or even a negative effect. (Challis et al 2017)
It is about the people.
It was not about the room.
It is not about the room now.
It never has been about the room.
It never will be about the room.

Always.

The biggest danger with regards to multi-sensory rooms is viewing them as an object or set of objects, when in fact they are a manifestation of thoughts and ideas and attitudes.

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We regard the mentally handicapped person as unique, someone who gives this personal, special meaning to simple things and atmospheres.

Today it is a matter of being equal in humanity, these can never be substituted by machines or effects. We are very much hindered by our rational attitude... this impedes a more primary use of our senses and purer experiences.

When a person still has a spark of independence we ought to respect it, cherish it.

Our senses often get clotted up, we may lack the ability to react spontaneously to primary stimuli.

Our rational attitude often kills the quiet surprise so that we do not give it a real chance.
Multiple Multisensory Rooms: Myth Busting the Magic.

The history of the rooms.
Research about the rooms.

The effective components of the rooms.
Wonderful examples of practice in the rooms.
Alternative sensory spaces.

“Get it” results.

What would it mean if an office installed a brand new suite of computers, but did not train their staff in how to use them?
- Are the computers just for show?
- Do management care about the outcomes?
- Is a multisensory room any different?
Let the wild r...