

Info Exchange Magazine



Apps Alert & **Sensory Surprises**



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Apps are described as **Free** or **Lite** indicates that the app is free as of time of locating it for the newsletter. Some apps may be for Android devices, as well as for iPads.

A PAGE OF RUDE APPS ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS TO PLAY PRANKS!

Being rude is part of the joy of life and always raise a snigger and crafty laugh!



Fart Cushion - Free

This app is best used with a real fart cushion to hand!



Burp and Fart - Free

This piano links burps and farts together on the piano keyboard. There are two sets of keys to play, so it can be a joint activity.



Atomic Fart! - Free

Tune into a range of farts with the sensitivity button.



Crack and Break It! - Free

A silly free app that appeals and is fun! Have you ever dreamed of breaking a window, light bulbs, fluorescent lamps or glass blocks? There are 4 ways to crack glass with graphics and realistic sound effects:

- Image Breaker - Import any picture and break it into pieces.
- Glass Blocks - Break glass blocks by tapping on it.
- Light Bulb - Break as many light bulbs as you wish.
- Fluorescent Lamps - Break as many lamps as you can.



Smash Hit - Free

Smash Hit is a somewhat surreal physics-based action game in which the main object is to break glass panes and objects with metal balls. The game resembles a technical demo but is quite fun to play. Other than throwing balls at virtual glass, there's no violence.



Important!

iPads, iPhones and IOS9 devices

Update on accessibility for children/students who are blind, visually impaired or multiply disabled.

One major change has been in the layout of the 'Accessibility Settings' menu and how to customise the available options. So, if you have not updated devices now is the time to do it. This will mean you may take advantage of the newest features and apps available.

The best description of these changes can be found at the excellent wonderbaby site:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/ipad-accessibility#simplify>

You will find information there on the following areas

- Simplify the iPad for Hands with Less Motor Control
- Assistive Touch
- Guided Access
- Switch Control
- Head Gestures & Other Switch Options
- Low Vision Options
- Voice Over
- Speak Selection
- Camera
- Hearing Impairments
- Braille Displays and Other Equipment

Mail Online

An interesting app found in the Mail Online. Thank you !
Send messages with the text singing!
Great for students.



Ditty - Free

This is an app that 'sings your messages' and sends them to other people over Facebook Messenger.

It converts up to 70 characters into music using auto-tune, with a variety of popular songs available in the app from nursery rhymes such as 'Hickory Dickory Dock' to more contemporary music like Sia's Chandelier. Any message can be 'musicified' and sent to other people.

When a user loads up the app they are presented with a window to type messages in at the bottom of the screen, and a scrollable list of songs to choose from.

After a typing a message, a user can then preview what it will sound like with different songs, before sending it out.

Have a listen to these two examples.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDe2nTgRv5Y>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6ldR_acmuY

Read more:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3014947/Say-songs-App-turns-text-messages-auto-tuned-lyrics-known-tunes.html#ixzz48Jeg2Klf>

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An app to consider for those with dyslexia or visual difficulties in accessing a page of words



Tints Dyslexia Friendly Reading

This app replicates and builds on the features of print books to enable young people to read a selection of books by best-selling authors on screen.

Tints does this by:

- a special layout to tackle visual perceptive issues, with carefully calculated spacing, our unique Barrington Stoke font and irregular line lengths for better navigation
- page orientation locked to portrait format and a minimum screen size (iPad Mini or above) for optimum readability
- a sliding reading ruler to help readers track their way through the books
- tinted backgrounds to replicate the effects of the coloured filters used by many children with dyslexia and visual stress

Free content for parents and teachers, including video advice from Bernadette McLean, Principal of the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre.

The app itself, parent content and preview materials are free to download. Full versions of books may be bought via an in-app purchase.

Further information can be found on this website:

<http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/blog/2015/10/06/introducing-tints-our-dyslexia-friendly-e-reading-app/>





<http://www.freesound.org>

Sounds okay!

This is an excellent site for collecting different sounds for sensory stories.

Freesound aims to create a huge collaborative database of audio snippets, samples, recordings, bleeps, ... released under a Creative Commons license that allow their re-use. Freesound provides new and interesting ways of accessing a vast range of sounds from bumble bees to chain saws!

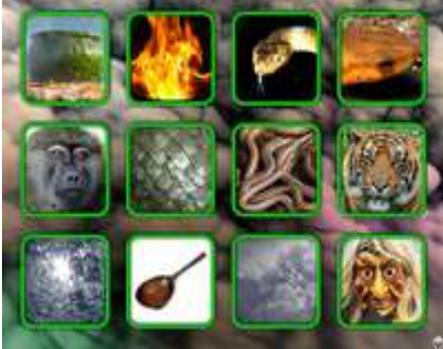
<https://www.freesound.org>

The screenshot shows the Freesound website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, links for 'Register', 'Log In', and 'Upload Sounds', and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Sounds', 'Forums', 'People', and 'Help'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Random sound of the day:** Features a sound titled 'centrality and eigenvect...' by user 'peperabala', recorded on June 27th, 2011. The description mentions recording hackers during the Barcelona Musichackday.
- Recent Additions:** Lists several new sounds, including 'brilliant guitarplay 02...' by 'Mankbeald' and 'Bell Ring' by 'qubodup'.
- Welcome to Freesound:** A yellow banner explaining that Freesound is a collaborative database of Creative Commons Licensed sounds.
- Support Us. Get your Freesound T-Shirt!** A section promoting a t-shirt with the Freesound logo, with buttons for 'Europe' and 'US Canada and Asia'.
- Love Freesound?** A section encouraging donations, with a 'Donate Now' button and a goal of 'Only \$83€ to go!'.

Free Quality Downloads

Don't forget the following **free** sensory downloads suitable for learners who think at a simple sensory level. They are all found on www.senteacher.org.



Macbeth Witches Sensory Sound Box

Somantics Cause & Effect Interactions



Cause & Effect Sensory Light Box

Cause & Effect Games & Activities



ReacTickles Magic Interactive Software

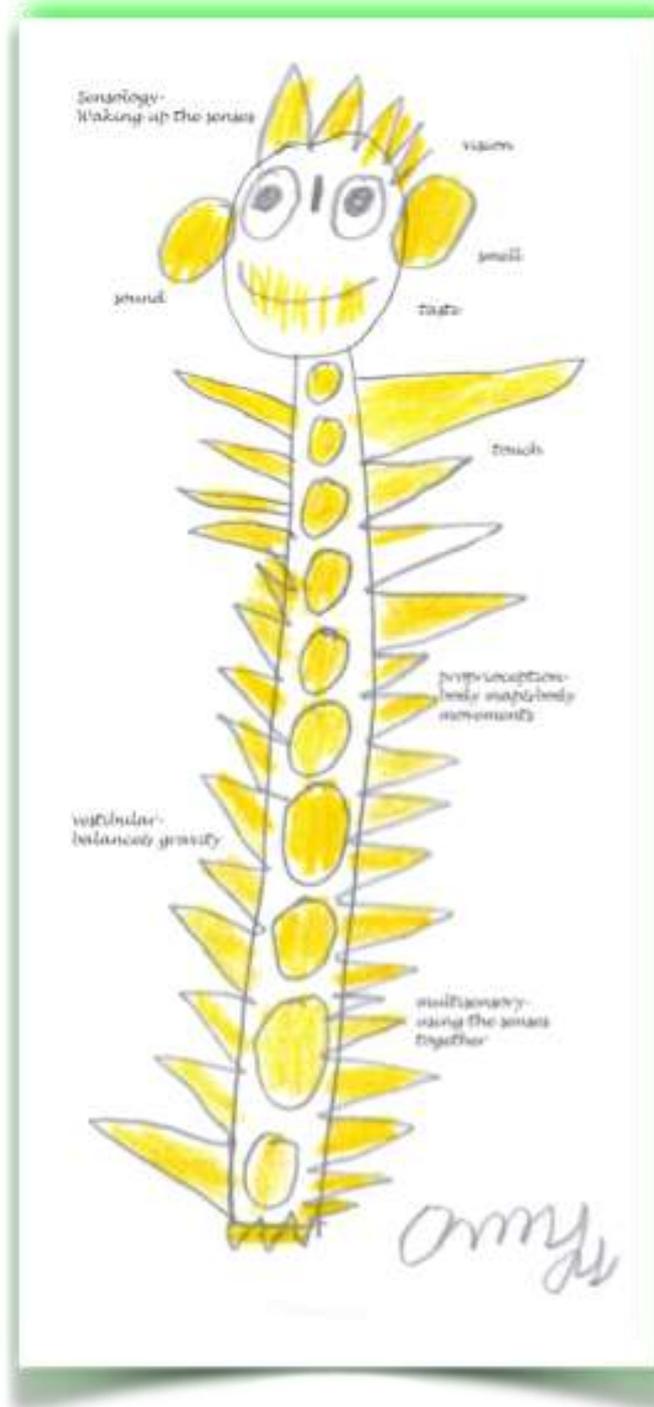
SEN Switcher - Teach & Assess Developmental Switch Skills



Pete Wells Sensory Stories

Info Exchange

Sensory Surprises





Sensory Gardens and Very Special People

When you are very special - that is, if you have a severe or profound disability - it is very difficult to find a sanctuary where you can relax and escape from the pressures of daily life. Every day, you wake to find helpful people looking after your intimate requirements, deciding what they think you would like to eat or where you would like to go. It is not easy to express your choices or preferences or to say where you would like to be - because the world finds it hard to understand your efforts at communication.

However, your network of senses gives you great pleasure and, through the senses, you can enjoy and learn on a very simple level. Perhaps the only sanctuary you can find is through a sensory garden that provides solitude, privacy and an opportunity to explore and communicate with the natural world - using all your senses.

A sensory garden can be as simple as ... a pot of soil and a single seed. Natalie has very limited movements, but she likes to point her finger. It gives her great pleasure to poke her finger into a pot of moist soil and then watch a plump seed drop in the hole. Natalie now works at a garden centre using her greatest skill - "one finger planting" - and is a keen and valued member of the gardening team!



A sensory garden can be as simple as ... a hanging basket, hung inside or outside. It is on a simple pulley and can be lowered into the lap of a person in a wheelchair, giving them command over a micro-world that changes with the seasons. The basket can be planted with quick growing seeds and bulbs or it can be instantly transformed by ready-grown plants and it can hold many colours, smells and textures. Bells or a windmill can be placed in the basket to enhance the sense of sound and the movement of puffs of wind.



A sensory garden can be as simple as ... a window box or a tub on a patio, at the right level to get "dug in". Stevie has to spend time in a side-lying frame each day and his garden is a window box on the floor. It is at an acute angle so that as he lies sideways, he can move his two arms together to brush the aromatic herbs and sniff the smells that drift to him. Plants store volatile essential oils and when they are touched,

the oil is oxidised and the fragrances released. Rubbing or breaking the leaves of an aromatic plant releases quite pungent smells. Artemesia, lavender, santolina and lemon balm all offer smells to trailing hands and soon release their fragrance.

A sensory garden can be as simple as ... a very small piece of ground for a group of very special people to call their own. A group of very special students at a further education unit spent a year on their plot. Over a year, the garden offered many pleasures including rolling over in a patch of thyme. They also grew and dried herbs, hanging them from the classroom ceiling. Alpine strawberries grew in pots placed at different levels, from which the students could pick and eat them as they were able. Using a redundant sand tray and stand, they grew small salad vegetables at just the right height for wheelchairs. The students made a portable garden of pot-grown plants, such as geraniums, fuchsias, petunias and Busy Lizzies, to be brought inside for the winter. Cuttings were taken from plants and a range of scented geraniums were grown for the smell table, where bowls of dried herbs were also placed. Herbs were also used to make herb scones.

A sensory garden can be a specially constructed space where anyone can encounter a spiritual uplifting or feeling of mystery and awe - using their numinous sense. A large hospital has a small sensory garden outside the children's ward. Sally was eighteen months old before she left the only world she knew, the inside of a hospital room. She was taken out, complete with all her medical tubes, and placed beneath a shady, sweet-smelling bush that she loved. Nearby, she could hear the sound of water tinkling over pebbles. She turned to the sound and soon experienced her first toe dabble in gushing, cold water.



A special school in Blackburn created a **spiritual sensory garden** through an award from a religious organisation. The project was to create an outdoor multisensory garden to enhance the sense of spirituality encountered in many world religions. Through nature, it provides a place of stillness, privacy, belonging and a reflective view of life. The entrance archway has trailing plants and bells attached so that children can announce their arrival. The three main areas are dedicated to Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. In the central area is a sundial, a birdbath and bird table, reflecting caring for living animals and the passing of time - common themes to most religions. Each sanctuary has a tactile, carved symbol and each has a different natural floor surface. The areas are full of multisensory plants, trees and the sounds of nature - a miraculous sanctuary - a sensory garden sanctuary for everyone, regardless of colour, creed, disability or religion.

Flo Longhorn 2016

Simple Science



A bowl full of different sponges!

Squeeze, squish, drip, squash, sprinkle, stir, splash, raindrops, swirl ...

Now change following sessions with one of the following:

- soap flakes
- washing up liquid
- warm water
- cold water
- water with ice cubes
- food colouring
- add a doll
- a doll with clothes to wash

Finger Fun!



**Fingers and thumbs find treasure -
thumbs and fingers working together!**

Found on the baby website of a train driver's wife!

<http://www.thetraindriverswife.com>

Look at this very simple 'cause and effect' laundry basket where the player has to work out how to extract the object of their choice. All you need is a laundry basket and a roll of string, wool or thread. Make the spider's web according to the deftness of the fingers of the player. Change the contents to arouse interest yet again.



After finger fun, use the laundry basket to sort out a pile of clothes, boys and girls or male and female wear!

Exploratory Cushions

These cushions are for practical reading using touch and vision. They also offer the opportunity to twist and turn buttons, undo ties, stretch elastic or zipper. Great for the hands that are weak or just beginning to explore the world within a hands reach of their body. A chance to safely explore. Ask your local Women's Institute to make some!





SOS for information on the use of the excellent 'Routes for Learning' materials and 'Quest' materials.

Hello everyone ... here is a chance to support the excellent 'Routes for Learning' or 'Quest' by answering just 5 questions They have promised to share the results with everyone. Watch this space.

As you may know we are conducting a survey into the usage of Routes for Learning across England and Wales. Routes for Learning was published in 2006, so this year will be the 10th anniversary.

The survey is intended to discover the number of schools using Routes for Learning and to help us understand the advantages and disadvantages of using it. The questionnaire will not take much of your time, around 15 minutes and your opinions would be of great value to us. We will be sharing the results of the survey with the team who originally devised Routes for Learning, and hope that this will lead to further developments. We would like you to still complete the survey even if you do not currently use routes for learning to assess your pupils. There are simply 5 questions for you to answer taking just 5 minutes of your time.

Please avoid responding to the questionnaire if your school has already done so, thank you.

English Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8G6ZB5J>

Welsh Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/37LLPN5>

Thank you for your participation!

'Routes to Learning' pack - available for **free**:

www.complexneeds.org.uk/modules/Module-2.4-Assessment-monitoring-andevaluation/All/m08p010c.html#

The pack contains an assessment booklet; a guidance booklet which provides an overview of the main theories and background information.

Poetry from LES STAVES - straight from the sensory heart!

*Who decides what the meaning is ?
Is my concept your concept ?
Stir it up little darlin'
Keep stirring Stir it up
And I will share with you .*

Bob Marley

*He got sense and sensory
Jane Austen she got sensibility
If I'm just wasting time
But the bakings smelling fine
Make your cake and eat it
Take your sense and walk it
Every little thing be all right
No meaning no cry*

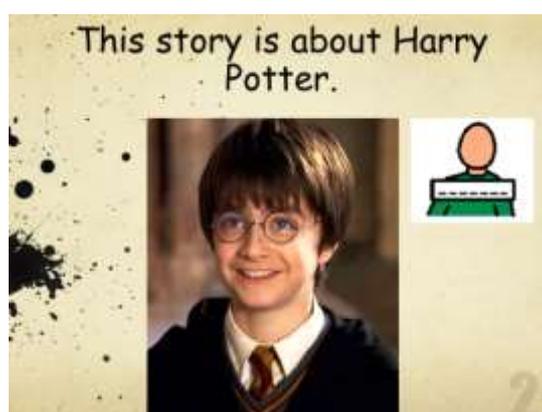




Harry Potter Sensory Story

Here is a sensory story presentation with Harry Potter as the main theme. It has a script using words and symbols. And sensory materials to accompany. It was discovered on the TES website and was available for a free download to share. You have to join the website to access materials but it is free to do so and is well worth a look. So, here is Harry!

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>



Get the whole story (26 Powerpoint slides with sensory notes) here:

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/harry-potter-sensory-story-6377076>