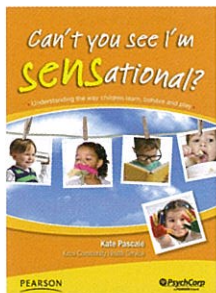


Book Reviews



Can't you see I'm Sensational. Understanding the way children learn, behave and play.

*By Kate Pascale, Knox Community Health Service.
Pearson Australia Group Pty. Ltd, Sydney 2010*

Developed by an Occupational Therapist in a local project with preschools and early intervention service providers in the Melbourne municipality of Knox, this is a highly useable manual. It provides easily read chapters on understanding children's sensory systems and general sensory strategies to help children learn in their own ways and give each child opportunities to succeed. It is well referenced with an extensive glossary and reading list.

Well laid out it contains information on sensory systems, ways to set up preschool environments and activities for success, general strategies for managing challenging behaviours and professional that can provide further assessment and support. Sensory Development Checklists are provide for 3 age groups in children birth to 5 years range. Checklists items are presented in two groupings, one based around the different sensory systems and the other around functional skills areas (eg fine motor, language). This makes it very user friendly for the range of professionals who may use these checklists. There is also a useful Sensory Environment Checklist to assist adults to look at possible ways to modify and structure the child's environment for success. Being spiral bound and the ability to copy the checklists for individual use increases it value and useability.

The approach to understanding sensory processing is similar to other resources in this area with the addition that it includes Chapparo and Ranka's Perceive-Recall-Plan and Perform system of task analysis as a useful model to describe how sensory processing contributes to learning and performance. The importance of professional assessment to provide specific treatment recommendations and individual support is highlighted throughout the manual.

It is a useful addition to any early intervention, preschool service's resources with sensory information, assessments and practical suggestions available in the one text.

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