

Sensory Stories

Sensory stimulation is vital for everyone.

Sensory stories convey narrative through experience & through words.

Sensory stories are for anyone, of any age, and any ability.

Sensory stories have been used with individuals with profound and multiple learning disabilities, dementia, autism and sensory processing difficulties, they've been used with babies and children in the early years, and with adults in their later years, they've been used in schools, care settings, heritage settings and homes, by specialist practitioners and by absolute beginners. They truly are for everyone.



Simple sensory resources are easy to find.

Guides

Guides like this one, on a range of related topics, are available to download for free from :

<http://jo.element42.org/sensory-stories>

The Sensory Project

The Sensory Project believes that with a little know how and creativity inexpensive sensory resources can become effective tools for including everyone.

Sensory Stories from The Sensory Project

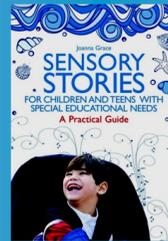
are available to buy from

<http://jo.element42.org/sensory-stories>

Stories come with advice on how to resource them, and extra ideas and information to support further engagement . A basic guide to sharing sensory stories is available to download for free.

Sensory Stories for Children and Teens

is available on Amazon (and in all good bookshops).



Sensory Project Training

The Sensory Project can create a bespoke training package for your setting. You can also access training from the Sensory Project at a variety of events nationwide, for details please see <http://jo.element42.org/training>

Connect with The Sensory Project

<http://jo.element42.org>

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How can I use a sensory story in my school?



Joanna Grace



Using sensory stories in schools: Some ideas to get you started...

In a special school

Sensory stories can be differentiated to suit a range of needs. By identifying the particular needs of your students you will be able to use the stories to support their learning, development and enjoyment of school.

For students with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Repeat the story over a number of sessions maintaining the highest standards of consistency possible.

For students with sensory processing difficulties.

Grade stimuli that students are likely to find challenging and increase the strength of these stimuli over a number of sessions. For example: in a story with a bang in it, on the first reading you might simply say the word bang, on the next say it loudly, the third shout it, before introducing the actual bang on the fourth retelling of the story.

For students in mixed ability classes.

Share the story as an introduction to the session, then create work based on one or two lines of the story for students to focus on for that session. By using consecutive lines as the basis of work for subsequent sessions you can build up a deep understanding of the story whilst also facilitating the repetition needed by other students.

Students achieving at a higher cognitive levels undertaking a series of study like this will find that they can use the sentences that make up the story as a wonderful aide-mémoire to access all the learning they have experiences in the associated sessions.

For more information about using sensory stories to support the needs of particular students, including those with Autism , and for more ideas for how to use Sensory Stories in schools please come on a Sensory Project Training Day.

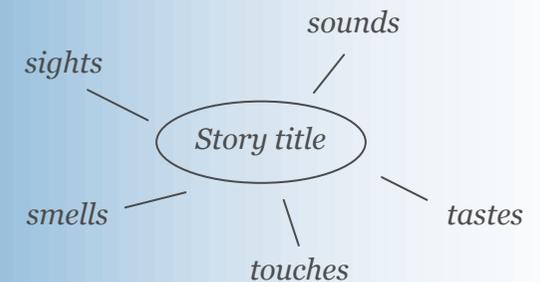
Details on reverse.

In a primary school

Sensory stories, and sensory stimulus can be used to promote engagement with a subject. Providing sensory stimulation with a story helps children sustain their attention.

You could use a sensory story as a prompt to get children thinking about those who are different to themselves. Ask them who they think the story is for, and why it might be written the way in the way it is.

Sensory stories can be used to promote creative writing. Give children stimuli to experience and ask them to generate words to describe the sensations. Ask children to identify the sensory experiences in a story they plan to write. Doing a sensory sketch ahead of writing will encourage a wider diversity of descriptive words in their creative writing.



A sensory sketch

In a secondary school

Sensory stories can present a motivating comprehension challenge. Ask students to distill a story into less than ten sentences. Although writing only 10 sentences might seem easy, the challenge of identifying what the important parts of a story are, what is essential to the narrative, etc, is a fantastic challenge to student's understanding of a text. Being able to distill large amounts of information into a few sentences is a great revision skill.

Sensory stories in other settings

Sensory stories work well in many settings including: nurseries, heritage settings, adult care settings, visitor centers, and care homes for the elderly.

Bespoke training from The Sensory Project

The Sensory Project can create a bespoke training day to enable you to use Sensory Stories in your setting. For more information get in touch: contact details are to be found on the back of this guide.