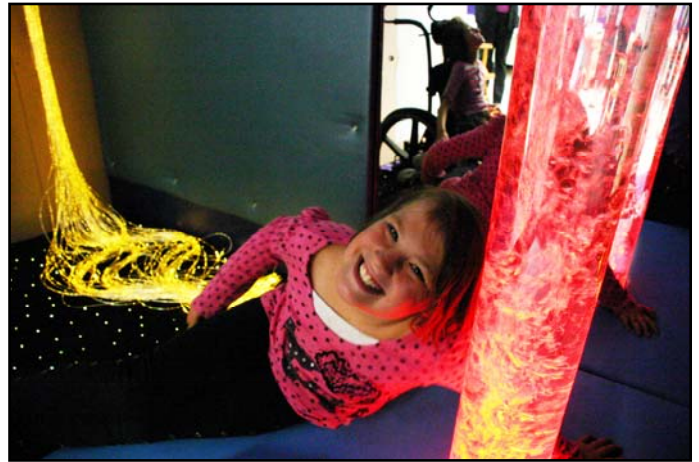


Way to Go!

We all know the comforting feeling of sitting in a big soft chair, with warm lighting and soft music playing in the background. Our environment plays a significant role in how we feel and respond.

Wanting to provide students with a stimulating and relaxing space, teachers in the Pathways program at Oriole Park Elementary have created a Sensory Room that provides an environment that helps students achieve their best.

Based on research and Snoezelen multi-sensory environments, the area contains a variety of sensory equipment and materials that deliver stimuli to all the senses through lighting, color, music, sound, touch and even scents. Together, bubble poles, vibrating pads, fiber optic lights, music and colored lighting create a true sense of peace and calm.



Teacher Jodi Robertson has noticed a significant impact on learning and behavior after students have spent time in the Sensory Room. "After being in the room, students are more calm and relaxed. They come out ready to learn so it is easier to engage them."

Student choice is an important component of the room. They quickly choose the elements that make them most comfortable. The room helps students develop their language and communication skills as well as fine motor skills through drawing, writing and use of hand held items. For non-verbal students it provides a type of therapy where they don't need to talk, it's calming and students learn to self-regulate.

When visiting the area, you get an immediate sense of comfort and recognize its benefits to teaching and learning. Multi-sensory environments benefit a variety of learners and ages so it is available for any students at the school. The district is considering other locations where students would benefit from Sensory Rooms.

To Oriole Park Elementary, for providing an amazing environment that supports student success, we say...

Way to Go!

We salute
students and
staff for
outstanding
accomplishments
and
achievements
in our schools!