

Sensory Engagement and the development of early cognition.

In the early stages of development sensory stimulation is critical to the wiring of the brain.

Early sensory experiences trigger the creation of neural pathways in the mind.

The more pathways created during this early stage of development the greater the potential for the brain in the future.



The Sensory Projects run on the principle that with the right knowledge and a little creativity inexpensive items can become effective tools for sensory inclusion.

Through the work of all the Projects founder **Joanna Grace** is seeking to contribute to a future where people are understood in spite of their differences.

To learn more about the projects, and to access free resources and information about bespoke sensory training visit

www.TheSensoryProjects.co.uk

Joanna's books: **Sensory Stories for Children and Teens** and **Sensory-being for Sensory Beings** are available on amazon, with more titles due for publication in 2018.



The Sensory Projects

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Say my name



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Say my name

Our own name is one of the easiest sounds for our brain to process. We naturally say people's names on greeting them but after that in our interactions we tend not to.

By including a person's name in your interactions you give developing hearing practice at processing sound. For people whose sound processing abilities are waning their name can offer the chance to hear clearly for a while.

For more information about auditory stimulation relevant to the development (or regression) of hearing see **Sensory-being for Sensory Beings** published by Routledge or attend:

Details can be found on

Develop your sensory lexiconary

www.TheSensoryProjects.co.uk

*For more information about Sensory Beings please download the free guide **Linguistic Beings and Sensory Beings**.

Identity

Our name is a powerful reminder of our own identity. The tone in which a person hears their name informs them in a very direct way about who they are.

A person who consistently hears their name said in a negative tone suffers damage to their self esteem.

A person who consistently hears their name in a positive tone has their self esteem reinforced.

Individuals with autism may need to hear their name to know you are talking to them as they will not necessarily pick up on the social cues that indicate this.

Community

Being known by your name to members of your community outside your immediate friends and family helps you feel included and connected. For Sensory Beings* who are constantly supervised enabling the community to connect with them through their name is a lovely thing. Be aware that for individuals who may at times be unsupervised having strangers know your name can be a risk.

Signs, badges and banners.

Placing a sign saying "Hello my name is _____" onto someone's wheelchair may stimulate the public to greet them. Similarly a badge on someone's top or a banner above their bed may do the same.

For those on the cusp of being verbal/non verbal a sign you can update that carries a little more information can stimulate conversations. "Hello my name is _____ and I went swimming yesterday" for example.

Games

Play games that involve names being said, e.g. phoning people.

Sing songs that include a person's name or adapt existing songs e.g. replacing "Young man" in the YMCA song with a person's name.



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