

Proprioceptive Stimulating Activities

Proprioceptive: Kinesthetic or body awareness which provides information to child from inside the body from the muscles, ligaments, and joints. These are especially helpful for children who have low muscle tone and who are not able to be sure where their body is in space. They are in need of heavy work activities, which involve heavy weight for the body to carry.

Heavy load walks and hiking trips

- Have the child walk the indoor tactile path with a loaded down back path
- Have the child wear a heavy weighted vest on the indoor path
- Have the child wear weights in pockets in the shirt and pants as walking the indoor path
- Have the child creep with the heavy weights on along the path
- Have the child cross an obstacle course with heavy loads on
- "Magic Rom" - ask children if there is some way they can make the room larger (pushing walls with body parts)
- Moving furniture, books, re-arranging tables

Cocooning

- Wrap the child up real tight in a sheet, blanket, or beach towel and then hold tight like a caterpillar in a cocoon

Climbing the Mattress Hill

Place the foot of the child's bed mattress down on the floor and the head of the mattress on the top of the middle of the child's bed, then have the child climb the mattress to get up on the top of the mattress hill

Tom Sawyer Travels

- Using a carpet square or carpet sample have the child lie forward on the sample and use arms and legs to raft along a slick floor
- Have child lie backward on carpet and repeat the raft travels
- Have child rafting this time only with arms in both forward and backward position

Delivery Game

- Have child pull a wagon, push wheelbarrow, carry large shopping bag or cardboard box (pretend truck which must be pushed or carried along path) filled with heavy objects of different colors and have child place each matching color object into matching color delivery stations, which are located on the indoor tactile path
- Have child collect objects from each delivery station until the carrier is loaded with heavy objects and brought to the end of the indoor path

Animal walks

- Similar to the tactile walks but have child use only three legs and alternate legs as the walk progresses along the indoor tactile path

Body Wheelbarrow Walk

- Hold child's feet and have child crawl on floor and play the wheelbarrow walk along the indoor tactile path
- Now hold hands and have child walk along path leaning on your body for a reverse wheelbarrow walk

Jump up Game

- Have child squat and wind up child and have child jump up when winding is done like a jack-in-the-box does
- Have the child jump up every time you call child's name
- Have child play frog and from a squat position jump along the tactile path

- Jump on trampoline
- Hopscotch

Get that out of my hands

- Pretend the ball or object given to the child is a “hot potato” which the child must get rid of immediately and keep the pace going fast
- You can use large balls, bean bags etc in this “hot potato” game of catch

Paper Mountain

- Have child crush up one at a time pages of newspaper and throw them into a designated site like an empty wading pool, or in a imaginary circular boundary until there is a huge mound of paper creating a paper mountain
- Now have the child go inside the mountain and explore it
- Have the child climb over the paper mountain
- Have the child crush the paper mountain
- Have the child throw the paper mountain away into a big waste can

Walls Moving In Game

- Have child pretend the room’s walls are moving in and have child push against the walls to stop the movement

Rescue Game

- Have child sit on carpet square or sample, wagon, scooter board, inner tube and pretend the child needs to be rescued and pull the child by arm so the vehicle and child can be rescued and pulled out of the indoor path to safety

Body Windshield Wipers

- Have child lie on floor and use legs as windshield wipers
- Have child lie on floor and use arms as windshield wipers
- Have child sit on floor and use arms and legs as windshield wipers

Body Function Charades

- Have child pretend brushing teeth, washing face, washing hands, washing body
- Have child pretend dressing up with pants, shirts, socks, shoes
- Have child pretend to eat, drink, and clean up the mess

Tumbling Activities

- Forward rolling
- Backwards rolling
- Log rolling

Examples of Heavy Work within the Home Environment - activities of daily living

1. Carrying laundry basket
2. Moving furniture for vacuuming
3. Opening garage door
4. Turning mattress
5. Raking leaves
6. Pushing/pulling wagon, baby buggy, etc.
7. Sweeping
8. Washing car, floor, etc.