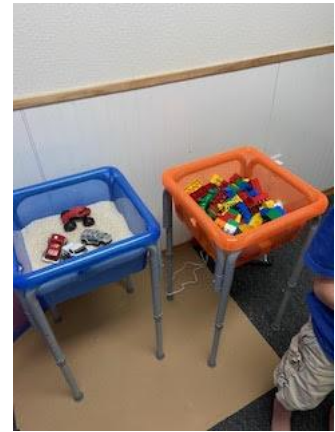
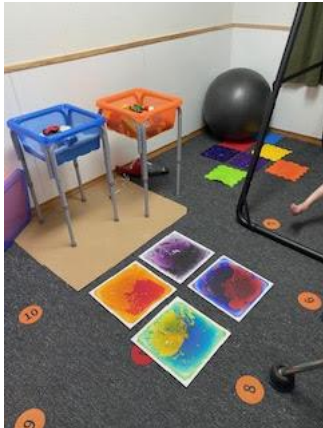


Arthur County Public Schools would like to give a huge shout-out to the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation based in North Platte, NE. The Sensory Room created at the elementary school was supported by the John Russell Applegate Fund for Teachers.

Sensory integration is a fundamental building block in a child's development. Sensory integration play involves helping children do better at activities they are normally not good at and helping them acclimate to things they cannot tolerate. When used repeatedly throughout a child's day and week, sensory inputs help to calm their lower brain systems and provide a foundation for social engagement (relate) and higher-level thinking (reason).



Spatial orientation terms are words used to situate people and objects in relation to each other in space. Examples include forwards and backward, above and below, and up and down. Spatial orientation is achieved through three major sensory sources: visual, vestibular, and proprioceptive. To achieve appropriate orientation the body relies on accurate perception and cognitive integration of all three systems. With the funds received through this grant, we were able to purchase the equipment and tools needed to provide total sensory input to various students.



Sensory play is the gateway to sparking creativity, fine-tuning cognitive abilities, and refining those motor skills, all while embracing the many items placed in the room. Sensory integration is used to help children learn to use all their senses together – that is, touch, smell, taste, sight, and hearing. By uncovering the benefits of sensory play and creating a sensory-rich experience in a sensory room, children learn to explore the magic of sensory integration while engaging their senses. The goal of the Sensory Room is to provide sensory integration and challenge a child in a fun, playful way so they are able to learn to respond appropriately and become productive citizens.

