

Learning problems are usually thought of as reading, writing and behavior disturbances, but they often have deeper roots in communication breakdowns between the sensory systems. Since a child's learning begins as he processes the light, sound and motion in

The Sensory Learning™ program is SMILE, a Supra-Modal Integrative Learning Experience, and was developed by Mary Bolles, founder of the Sensory Learning Institute in Boulder, Colorado, as an educational approach to developmental

HELPING THE BRAIN PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

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his environment, the way these experiences are processed - either efficiently or inefficiently - determines his ability to learn. In other words, a child's language, academic and cognitive development depend upon the sensory information processing centers in the brainstem being well organized and well developed. Learning problems, therefore, can be thought of as a sensory perception problem. The individual is not receiving the information in the way that we would normally expect. The best path to alleviate brain dysfunction and naturally enhance the development of learning abili-

learning that integrates the three sensory inputs of light, sound and motion. Aspects of vision therapy, auditory training and physical/occupational therapy are involved.

The Sensory Learning light instrument uses custom colored optometric glass filters to facilitate and train the central nervous system. The modulated musical sound adds another exercise for the listening and attention centers of the brain. Auditory training (or exercising the ears) as

shown by the work of French medical doctor Alfred Tomatis and Guy Berard, retrains the ear to listen and focus on what is being learned and to disregard distractions. The Sensory Learning program uses a third modality of a motion table to provide vestibular stimulation that simulates the work of Dr. Ayers, a pioneer in the field of Occupational Therapy and Sensory Integration. According to Dr. Ayers, "A program involving vestibular stimulation is often more effective than drugs, mental analysis, or rewards and punishment in helping the dysfunctional brain correct itself."

The Sensory Learning™ program is a catalytic adjunct to approaches such as physical rehabilitation and psychological speech or occupational therapy. The Sensory Learning program enables successful interaction and processing of the simultaneous sensory messages within the person, thus allowing them to better relate to their environment. The Sensory Learning program allows the sensory systems to organize and improve their processing abilities. Since its inception, participants ranging from 2½ years to adults have experienced substantial benefits from this type of peripheral training.

Sensory perception problems may also be associated with autism, ADD/ADHD behavioral problems, developmental delays, speech delays, birth trauma and traumatic brain injuries.

SIRRI is a certified provider of the Sensory Learning™ program and Sensory Learning Institute. For more information, call SIRRI at (480) 777-7075 or visit www.sirriaz.com.



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