

TACPAC

TACPAC (Touch and Communication – PAC) forms a key part of the sensory curriculum. It draws together music and touch to develop structured sensory communication between two people.

Intent

- TACPAC benefits those who have any sensory impairment, communication difficulties, developmental delay, complex learning difficulties, tactile defensiveness and limited or pre-verbal levels of communication.
- TACPAC is a sensory curriculum resource which uses touch and music to align the senses and develop communication skills.
- TACPAC combines a sense of touch and music to create a structured half hour of sensory communication between two people.

Implementation

- Sensory learners access TACPAC sessions.
- TACPAC is delivered via interaction between two people, the giver and the receiver.
- Objects of reference are used to indicate 'it's time for TACPAC'.
- 'Do not disturb' sign placed on door to minimise disruptions and further sensory stimuli for receivers.
- Lights are turned off and pupils are positioned to best experience each resource. There is no talking from staff from this point.
- Givers allow 10 seconds of music to be played before touch begins.
- All sessions end with a 'rest' section where staff remain still.
- To draw the session to a close, lights are turned on and different music played.
- The same TACPAC set is used for a significant period of time (up to 5 months) and sessions are held at the same time and place to aid the predictability of the session.
- Staff work with the same pupils each session to ensure consistency for the receiver to aid interpretation of communicative skills.
- The thematic material lends itself to sensory storytelling and allows receivers to feel the story in sequence.

Impact

- Through repetition, receivers show anticipation and responses to each stimuli.
- Responses form crucial steps toward more clearly defined intentional communication.
- Staff record receiver responses to each resource on observation records.
- Evidence is recorded against Levels / IMPACTS / Engagement Profile / EHCP targets.