

Top tips for an MSI friendly classroom

Follow these easy hacks to make your classroom inclusive and welcoming for students with multi-sensory impairments.

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High contrast

Introduce as much colour contrast into the classroom as possible to differentiate items in the room.



Increase wait time

Students who have multi-sensory impairment might need longer to process words and formulate a response.



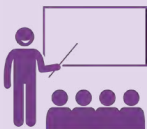
Tactile navigation

Ensure that key routes around the classroom and school are free from furniture and other hazards, such as staples in walls. Introduce hand rails and tactile or large print signage where possible.



Avoid patterns

Busy patterns on walls, floors and even clothes can be disorientating and lead to dizziness. Where possible, stick to plain carpets and walls – and even on your clothes.



Positioning

Avoid standing in front of bright lights or windows when you are talking, as this makes it harder for students to lip read you. Always face the class when speaking, so that students can see your mouth.



Keep the noise down

Too much background noise can make it hard to distinguish what you are saying. Try a Babbleguard (www.connevans.co.uk) to visually monitor noise levels in a classroom.



Use other senses

Why not use different scents in your classroom to help students identify which day of the week it is, or which subject they're learning?



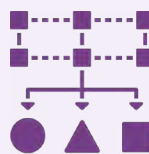
Lighten up

Keep all areas well-lit and introduce as much natural light as possible.



Materials makeover

Make sure your materials are on matt paper, that text is in a clear typeface such as Arial, is well spread out, uncluttered and left aligned.



Differentiation of materials

Include different ways to access information as well as different levels of difficulty. For example pictures, audio description, audio files etc.



Use symbol and objects

Visual cues can be used for specific activities or actions. For example a book for reading tasks, a microphone for speaking tasks, or a picture of a penguin huddle for any group work.

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