

Funding from the non-profit grant program made it possible for Goodwill of Southern New England to provide a sensory room for many of our consumers.

The sensory room is available and used by numerous consumers in our programs (SPICE, Blended and CES). The average number of individuals that use it on a daily basis ranges from 25-35. Individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities and Alzheimer's disease make up the majority of the consumers benefiting from the sensory room. Other consumers who benefit from utilizing the room are diagnosed with autism and behavioral challenges.

Uses and benefits:

- Provides consumers a calming and safe space
- Used to support behavioral regulation (reduces behavioral outbursts)
- Provides visual stimulation (sight)
- Auditory stimulation (sound)
- Olfactory stimulation (smell)
- Tactile stimulation (touch)
- Proprioceptive and vestibular stimulation (movement)
- Groups are able to use the room to learn and manipulate the tactile equipment (learn patterns, shapes, use resistance putty for physical strengthening)
- Individuals with developmental disabilities and Alzheimer's disease have a quiet and calm program space to use when the larger area is too stimulating
- Used when an individual with behavioral challenges is beginning to show signs of escalation. Staff is able to use the room to calm the individual before the behavior has the potential to escalate further.
- Assists individuals with autism with their social interactions, communication and sensory impairment.

Equipment used:

- Communication devices – senior talk and go
- Ultra violet fiber optics
- Light diffraction totem
- LED wave panel
- UV tactile panel
- Aromatherapy sets
- ICE mini rover (robot w/projector, CD player, color changing bubble tube, fiber optics)
- Tactile wall panel
- Tactile table top manipulatives





