A shape sorter toy for blind children : the "sound puzzle box" from Battat

Type of Project

Intervention

Summary

Within the play spaces of the toy's library, once a week, we are used to welcome children with disabilities accompanied by their educators. This is the time for observations, tests and analysis of toys. For blind children at free play, we have tested the "sound puzzle box" from Battat. The features of this toy, 3 simple plastic shapes which can slide down in 3 tubes with small specific sounds make this toy really easy to use and fascinating for the children. The pleasure of this play activity comes from hearing sensorial effects, from intellectual motivation in understanding the toy’s functions and chiefly, the sense of mastery.

Low-tech, high-tech products, services and contexts for play

Sound puzzle box : manufacturer Battat item 40267
It is a plastic shape sorter toy with only three blocks : cylinder, cube, pyramid. Simple blocks slide down inside 3 plastic transparent tube of the same shapes while emitting particular small sounds.
The aim of that game is to succeed by inserting the shapes Inside the pipes and to be awarded by hearing the different sounds and be able to start again.

The context of use

Inside the Toys' library, during the weekly visit of children with visual impairments acompanied by their educators

Type of play in this play system

Cognitive

Practice

Social

Solitary

Objectives related to play according to ICF-CY

Play for the sake of play: Major life areas - d880 enagement in play

d8800 solitary play

Community social and civic life - d920 recreation and leisure time

d9200 play

Play-like activities: Therapeutic and educational objectives

b1 Mental functions

b2 Sensory functions and pain

Number of participants

1-5

Chronological Age

0-3 years

Development Age

0-3 years

LUDI Categories of disabilities

Visual impairments:

Blind

Explanation on the use of low-tech, high-tech devices, services or contexts

Explanation

Verbal instruction, language and communication is adapted

Involvement

Adult: therapist/educator/researcher

Parent or significant others

Role

Non-participatory observer

Evaluation of objectives and outcome measures

Description of outcome measure(s)

Observation by professional/researcher providing the play experience

Feedback from client/parents/professionals

Information about availability of outcome measure: publisher, website, contact person

Professionals of the toy's Library : Odile Perino, Laurence Delay

Summary of achieved effects

With the "sound puzzle box", from Battat, play with a shape sorter box became finally possible for those blind children ! Since the second play session, they all wanted having that box.

Autonomy and delight :
During those free play sessions, after little explanations, the children were autonomous because the shapes are exactly adjusted to the tubes – it is impossible to open the box and transform it in a emptying and filling game – the box is easily reversed to take again the 3 blocks. The delight of playing and succeeding when hearing the noises of the shapes was revealed by the smiles and laughs of the players.

Duration :
The times of free play with this toy last longer than with another shape sorter box : from 2 minutes to ten or even twelve minutes.

Attention and concentration:
more intense than with other toys of the same category because the children want to understand the functions of that toy.

References to the intervention or research project

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Keywords

Mainstream toy
Practice play
Toy's library