

# Sensory Integration: A Building Block for Childhood Development

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## Abstract

Our objective was to encourage positive social-emotional development in children in early education classrooms. We created a sensory board as a method for increasing creativity and sensory integration and to provide a therapeutic outlet for children demonstrating challenging behaviors. Interviews with teachers and staff revealed that the sensory board was well-liked by children, consistently utilized, effective in defusing challenging behaviors, and enabled teachers to implement sensory integration into daily curriculum.

## Brighton Center Partnership

Mission: Help families attain self-sufficiency & *achieve their dreams* through various support programs

- Northern Kentucky Scholar House
- Early Scholars Childhood Development Center



Project Goals/ Service Objectives	Interview Results
Encourage development of appropriate coping skills in children at Early Scholars	Lela (Case Manager) - If there is a “different behavior than usual,” the board can catch a child’s attention.
Provide teachers an opportunity to facilitate exploration	Brittany (Scholar House Director) - Children with “strong personalities” are now able to enjoy Scholar House workshops with more teacher attention.
Construct a sensory board that will provide long term utility	Lauren (Brighton Center Director) - “[The sensory board] provides flexibility in an ever-changing center.”
Help children meet socioemotional & developmental milestones	Leah (Teacher) - The board also allows younger children to start practicing fine motor skills.
Help teachers work alongside children to further develop skills	Lisa (Teacher) - “Having the sensory board creates an additional activity that can stretch into the evening hours”

## Learning Objectives

Gain appreciation for community partner impact  
Explore implications of social determinants of health  
Practice collaboration and innovation

## Methods

Pre-project interviews of Early Scholars Childhood Development Center staff to identify determinant of health most in need:  
Need: Behavior & Coping Skills  
Proposed Solution: Sensory Board, Introduced on February 12, 2019  
Post-project interviews to assess impact

## Discussion

The sensory board is in use during pick-up, drop-off, and during workshops for most age groups at Scholar House.

### Benefits:

- Redirects/calms challenging behavior
- Integration into sensory-based curriculum
- Additional after-hours activity
- Customizable and mobile

### Future Goals:

- Add electronic/digital component
- Track developmental milestones

## Acknowledgments

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## References

- Brighton Center. A Community of Support. [brightoncenter.com/who\\_we\\_are](http://brightoncenter.com/who_we_are)
- Northern Kentucky Scholar House. [brightoncenter.com/programs/scholar\\_house](http://brightoncenter.com/programs/scholar_house)