Sensory Strategies Olfactory - information received by smelling



When you notice your student avoiding or seeking sensory, but not sure what to do, try some of these:

Sensory seeking		Sensory Avoiding	
(under responsive or hypo-sensitive to sensory stimulus)		(over-responsive or hyper sensitive to sensory stimulus)	
Does child:		Does child	
	Smell objects (plastic flower, playdough)		Holds nose
	Smell people		Report that "something smells" with common everyday
	Smell food		smells
	Seeks out strong odors (gasoline, cleaning supplies)		Gags with smells
	Smell garbage can		Avoid foods with strong smell
	Smell hands		-

Activities to support sensory seeking

- Smell schedule
- Scented markers
- © Scented paints
- Scented playdough
- © Cooking activities
- Scented beanbags or stuffed animals
- Scratch and sniff stickers
- Arts/crafts using cinnamon
- Smell matching or memory game
- Jewelry designed to hold scents

Activities to support sensory avoiding

- Place common smells around the room on cotton pads (smells of the day/week)
- Avoid wearing perfume/lotions to reduce chaos of environmental smells
- © Introduce new smell on daily or weekly basis as part of structured schedule
- Stimulate facial points around the nose
- Talk with physician about nutrient deficiency linked to hypersensitivty

Nackley, V.L. (2001). Sensory diet applications and environmental modifications. A winning combination. American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. 24(1), 1-4

