

# Sensory Spaces: An Autism-Friendly Project

Artist, Sarah Evelyn Marsh shares autism-friendly strategies through a series of creative workshops she facilitated in a contemporary gallery in Gdansk, Poland.

Sarah developed a six week project for a small group of families whose children were on the autistic spectrum, one of the group also showed traits of Aspergers. The project was called *Space in the Process*, and through open-ended engagement with constructed spaces and handmade sensory-inspired objects, the group explored ideas and activities that developed a creative language and kick-started a dialogue with the gallery to deepen engagement with the families.

## To Connect



At the beginning of the project it was important to take time getting used to each other, the learning space and the surrounding environment. Below is a

list of considerations you may find helpful to use in your own learning spaces. Be aware of the daily sounds, smells and other textures of life in your learning space; a constant humming noise or flickering light may be stressful for a child with autism. Allow time for everyone to feel their way in the space; connections may be made through the use of different senses and body parts. [Read More](#)

## To Conceal



During the six week project, the group explored different themes and actions, some of these were displayed through learning schemas. In week 2 we experimented with different ways to conceal ourselves and objects; schemas such as enveloping and enclosure were exhibited by the group. [Read More](#)

## To Colour



Two of the sessions explored the theme of colour. The first was rather abstract, I asked questions such as; What does colour smell like? What does colour feel like?

For a child on the autistic spectrum, a question like this may be confusing, some autistic people think and understand literally. So instead of directing these questions at the children, I answered and speculated on them myself. These abstract questions became vehicles for the workshops documented below. [Read More](#)

## To Construct



In my final post on the project, I want to reflect on the theme of To Construct... looking at the different ways we constructed during the project. Please remember this is a personal and artistic reflection, based on the ideas I presented and the (emotional and physical) reactions and responses of the children and their families, who inspired changes and the development of the project as we experienced it. [Read More](#)