

Section 5: Precautionary Measures

- All equipment used should be safe and in good repair.
- Adult supervision is essential. Schools may want to make use of volunteers to assist them in group situations.
- Group or individual work should take place in an area that is
 - Safe
 - Has sufficient space
 - Free from distractions
 - Controlled

- Children with co-ordination difficulties are often sensitive about their performance and abilities. Activities should be presented in such a way as to:
 - Not be competitive
 - Be fun and meaningful
 - Allow for some imagination
 - Allow opportunity for praise and positive feedback regarding the attempts being made
 - Be successful
 - Encourage social interaction

- Some children are particularly sensitive to certain forms of sensory stimulation e.g. Heights, loud noises, unexpected light touch or moving equipment. Care should therefore be taken to present these activities in a non-threatening manner that can easily be discontinued at any stage and encourage active participation from the child.

- Some children's activity level tends to escalate with movement and they may go into overdrive. Sometimes the result is only noticed after a while e.g. Nausea, dizziness. All groups should end with time spent on a calming activity that provides deep pressure. If the effects are noticed later this child can be taken out for some calming input (deep pressure). Please refer to "Strategies for improving attention and activity levels"(section 7).

- To reduce risks around impulsive children who tend to take risks (e.g. Launching themselves onto large therapy balls!) make sure that all unnecessary equipment is packed away after use. Staff may want to introduce a "statue" game, which can be used in situations that are becoming risky.

- Be aware that some of the gross motor group activities listed are quite physical. Be careful therefore of your back or any other physical limitations which may be aggravated by these tasks.

- If you have any doubts regarding how to do these tasks please get in touch with the OT department.