Occupational Therapy Student Services Centre

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Sensory Strategies for Students with Poor Personal Space and/or Body Awareness

When students demonstrate difficulties with personal space/body awareness, that often means that their brain is not receiving complete information from their bodily senses about where their body is. Providing students with increased input to their joints and muscles can help to decrease inappropriate seeking behaviors and increase body awareness.

Strategies to Try	Report on Effectiveness of Strategy
Weighted lap animal or weighted vest for 20-	
30 minute intervals during seated work	
** Please contact occupational therapist to	
obtain medical clearance for vest	
Body sock and/or sensory tunnel for whole	
body resistance	
Provide regular opportunities for heavy work	
breaks (i.e. 1x am, 1x pm)	
Regular opportunities for movement breaks	
regular opportunities for movement breaks	
Whole body deep pressure activities (bean	
bag or mat sandwich) and/or therapy ball	
massage	
** Please contact occupational therapist for	
training	
Joint compressions	
** Please contact occupational therapist for	
training	