



# What's a SuperSensory Literacy Space?

SuperSensory Literacy Spaces are multi-sensory libraries designed by The Shadow Project that give students with ADHD, dyslexia, autism, and other learning challenges access to the tools they need to thrive in the classroom.

To motivate students academically and behaviorally, many teachers use their Sensory Space for:

- Timed sensory breaks
- Quiet reading
- Audiobook access
- Focused classwork
- Testing
- Fidget selection
- De-escalation

*“When children with learning challenges are able to select their own sensory tool, it instills self-awareness, which is the first step towards student responsibility for learning and behavior goals. Thanks to our SuperSensory Literacy Space, there is an increased awareness and acceptance of children’s sensory needs, which is a huge culture shift here at Rosa Parks.”*

—Kim Giarelli, M.S.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, ROSA PARKS ELEMENTARY

## Meet Isaac—Up Two Reading Levels!

Isaac is a Shadow student who blossomed when a SuperSensory Literacy Space was installed at his school. He used the sensory space for classwork and testing, utilizing a special fidget and a vibrating pillow. Isaac also got hooked on the *Big Nate* series using an audiobook, and began showing his friends how to access titles and download them to an iPad. "When [the story] was read to me, it helped me read faster," said Isaac. Today, Isaac's literacy skills have improved so much that he leans toward the print version of his favorite books, and he reads at almost grade level. "Reading is my new favorite subject!" said Isaac.



# Super Spaces Include:

## 'Eye & Ear' Literacy Materials



High-interest, easy-to-read print books give K-8 students with learning challenges the confidence to read. Many titles are multi-cultural, feature children with special needs, or have charts, facts, and hands-on activities.



Audiobooks give students access to the material their peers are reading. Titles can be downloaded and read on an electronic device in the classroom, and at home. Many titles are available in Spanish. The audiobooks are narrated by professionals to ensure correct language. The audio narration is enhanced by on-screen highlighted text, and students can easily find a certain chapter/page, and set multiple bookmarks.

*Research shows that when students use accessible audiobooks, they experience 76 percent improved reading comprehension and 52 percent improved reading accuracy.*



### Students are asked to:

- Check in with the teacher for a specified amount of time
- Follow the posted rules
- Leave the space as it was when they arrived
- Return any audio books
- Check out with the teacher when finished

## Tools for Multisensory Needs



### Dynamic Seating

Bean bags, swivel chairs, and nubby wobble cushions help children maintain movement while focusing on reading.



### Fidgets

Small, squishy, fuzzy, and stretchy hand-held items can help your student focus.



### Weighted Lap Pads

A calming tool for children to settle into their work.



### Kinetic Sand

Special sand is another way for busy hands to relieve stress.



### Vibrating Pillow

Vibrating pillows can help with calm and focus.

The  
Shadow  
Project



**The Shadow Project**—the only nonprofit of its kind in the nation—partners with educators to make school a place where children who learn differently can thrive.

*Changing Lives for Children with Learning Challenges*