

# SPECTRUM DARKDEN

## Light-Up Ducks

Good for stimulus-response activities. 5 cm. Pack of 6.

Colour may vary.

**38216 \$36.95**

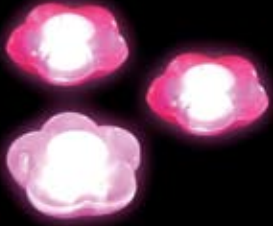


## Light-Up Flowers

Ages 3+ Set of 3 light-up flowers.

Can be placed on walls (suction cups included), in water, or on tables. 1.5V batteries included.

**38214 \$30.55**



## Colour Morph Star

Simply press the switch and watch the star change through a myriad of colours. Two AAA batteries included.

**38218 \$12.25**



## Light Ball

Changes colour with the squeeze of your hand. Covered with ribbed rubber. 3 light modes (constant, slow, fast) and 7 colours. 8 cm diameter.

**38220 \$15.55**



## See-Through Flashlights

**38222** Pack of 4 **\$20.95**



## Blue LED Fibre Light

Thousands of long fibre strands fall about a silver base to create a beautiful blue glow. 11.3 x 7.5 x 31.3 cm. Uses 2 AA batteries (not included).

**38224 \$6.95**



**Education  
Resource  
Award Winner  
2008!**



## The Dark Den: Taking Multi-sensory Environments to New Heights

Now children have a special kind of place to call their own! Crawl into the den and explore its dark environment. Portable, easy to assemble and folds away into its own bag. Fantastic for using with flashlights, glowing objects, fibre optics, or just a cozy place which can be decorated. The side flaps are great for observation purposes. Dimensions 100 x 100 x 100 cm.

**38208 \$106.95**

## INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL OFFER!

**Order both the Dark Den and the Dark Den Accessory Kit and Save 15%! 38212 \$192.95**

## Dark Den Accessories Kit

An exciting array of light resources. See the fibre optic strands twinkle and the star glisten. Press the ball to watch the colour change sequence. Kit includes: 4 flashlights, starlight star (battery included), light lamp, 6 LED ducks, light ball, and 3 floating flowers (batteries included).

**38210 \$109.95**

**Portable  
Multisensory  
Environment  
without the big  
price tag!**

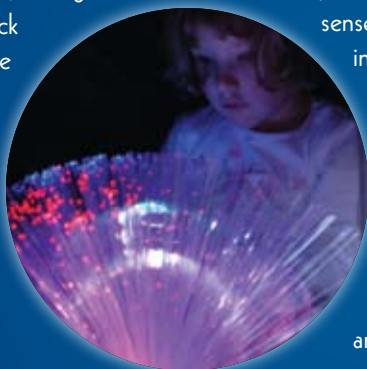


# Creating Sensory Environments ... A Special Place for Children

By Franca DaSilva

We hear so much about multi-sensory environments nowadays. It's the latest new learning environment for children of all abilities, yet it has been around for decades. I was first introduced to a multi-sensory environment in 1991, during my last ECE fieldwork placement. Back then, multi-sensory environments were a relatively new concept in Canada, used predominately in programs for children with special needs. Today multi-sensory rooms are turning up everywhere: in hospitals, in long-term care facilities, in special needs programs and in schools and daycare centers too!

Why? The answer is simple. Multi-sensory environments allow children to connect with all of their senses without boundaries. A multi-sensory environment is a place where a child can go and explore through touch, sound, smell and sight. It is a safe haven away from the pressures and expectations children face in today's stressful society. It is a magical place where new achievements are met



through the discovery of unique resources that light up and sparkle.

Multi-sensory environments can be used with all age groups and can benefit children with all types of abilities, but are especially important for those with special needs. They stimulate the senses and promote achievements in all areas of development.

Multi-sensory environments have been proven to alleviate anxiety and hyperactivity, and to help children with behavioural and social disorders, as well as increase motor skills and responsiveness.

Although popular, the price tag for creating a multi-sensory environment can be quite hefty, costing thousands of dollars. Let's face it, not every facility has the money to create such an environment. Fortunately, a number of portable products have emerged on the marketplace that put multi-sensory environment programming well within the reach of most facilities. One such

product is the Dark Den, which recently won the U.K.'s 2008 Education Resource Award. One of the great advantages of a portable, multi-sensory environment like the Dark Den is that it can be shared between rooms, giving every child in your facility the opportunity to experience it, regardless of his/her abilities. They're also a practical solution for centres that want to offer children a multi-sensory environment, but don't have a lot of space.

Franca DaSilva is an Early Childhood Educator and Early Childhood Administrator. She is also the Early Years and Special Education Catalogue Director for Spectrum Educational Supplies in Newmarket, Ontario. Franca has worked at all levels in the daycare sector, including working with children with special needs. You can contact her directly at [fdasilva@spectrumed.com](mailto:fdasilva@spectrumed.com).



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