

APPENDIX D: USER OBSERVATIONS SUMMARY

Users were observed at Misericordia (2001 West Devon, Chicago, IL) on October 9, 2023.

Intellectual Stimulation

- Ms. Humphrey uses Dr. Seuss books because she likes the rhythm of the words.
- Music is useful for calming and stimulation (especially for _____)
- Products teaching money would be helpful, but the bills/coins would need to be to scale. One concern is the safety hazard of choking due to the small size of coins.
- Gym time and sports is part of the education curriculum.
- General observations about the facility:
 - The Sensory Room is filled with various items
 - Low lighting to help calm overstimulated residents
 - Large hallways prevent claustrophobic feelings for residents
- MyPlate dietary curriculum is being implemented
 - Another idea is a product to help residents distinguish between different types of food with realistic depictions and appropriate portion sizes.

Safety Considerations

- Silicone based products



Figure 1. Example of silicone based toy safe for chewing and biting

- Most products are sizeable to discourage swallowing/choking
- Scarves to prevent drooling, but they also function as a safe chewing item

Sanitation Procedures

- Ms. Humphrey cleans and sanitizes products on her own in the classroom setting
- Products for sanitizing products include Halt, bleach, glass cleaner, Clorox, soap and water
- Rinses items with water after the use of any chemicals for cleaning because residents often place objects in the mouth for chewing, biting or calming.

Information for Individual Residents

User	Characteristics
_____	Very active Likes playing with bouncing ball in particular Vocal, nonverbal
_____	Not as active Fine Motor control is impaired Likes sensory mat on floor
_____	Moderately active Likes items he can put in mouth Likes stimulation by chewing Intellectual demonstration (pointing out the number 8 from a letter) Affectionate