



M E D I A R E L E A S E

August 26, 2009

BOARD UNVEILS NEW SNOEZELN ROOMS

District School Board Ontario North East is proud to announce the introduction of three new Snoezelen rooms for the upcoming school year: at Cochrane Public School, Iroquois Falls Public School, and Temiskaming District Secondary School. Roland Michener Secondary School in South Porcupine was the first school in the board to benefit from a Snoezelen room in 2007. Based on the positive gains made by a number of special needs students who have used the room, the benefit of supporting other students was recognized. DSB Ontario North East is a leader among the northern school boards in the installation of these Snoezelen rooms, providing an alternative form of relaxation, stimulation and educational benefit to over 125 students.

The Snoezelen room is a therapeutic and recreational room that was developed to satisfy the perceptual needs of people with severe learning, sensory, physical and other disabilities. It is a fun, multi-sensory environment that provides stimulation and relaxation opportunities through the use of smell, touch, sound, colour and light. Snoezelen is often the first opportunity some children have to control their environment through making choices – a vital step in self-realization. There is a range of sensory stimulations to absorb, explore and control in this accessible environment, with the participants free to respond to these new sensations in their own unique way.

The Snoezelen room's positive effects are known to extend to other settings. Educational benefits are noted in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic gains. The basic premise is to begin observing the signs of enjoyment and then build on the skills that are identified through this enjoyment. It provides the caregiver with an objective assessment of effort and achievement.

For More Information or Media Interviews, Please Contact:

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