

Regulating Gym Activities

Heavy Work, or Proprioceptive, activities involve pushing, pulling or lifting.

This type of input supports emotional regulation and readiness for learning. It can be calming for some, while for others it can increase their levels of alertness and engagement.

Older pupils often enjoy accessing a gym or fitness suite. This is a great way to engage in exercise, not only for physical wellbeing, but also to provide regulating input for sensory processing needs.

Below are some common pieces of gym equipment, categorised by how much proprioceptive input they provide.

Equipment which incorporates more movement (e.g. treadmill, cross trainer and rower) will be useful for those who need to increase their alertness but in a regulated way.

Equipment which is mainly resistive (i.e. free weights and weight machine) will be useful for those requiring calming input.

MODERATE HIGH LEVELS OF PROPRIOCEPTIVE INPUT PROPRIOCEPTIVE INPUT Treadmill -Spin Bike -Cable set at no set to Machine incline higher resistance Elliptical Treadmill -Lat Cross with Pulldown Trainer increased set to low incline resistance Spin Bike -Assisted set to low Rower Pullup resistance Lifting weights (barbell, Leg Press dumbbells, kettlebells, weighted balls) Gym machines and equipment should be used following a Stair gym induction and Climber under supervision