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Introduction – My initial target was to use the Engagement Profile to assess the impact of Tacpac on a pupil's engagement. However once I began working with the Engagement Profile, I didn't find it particularly 'user friendly' or useful for what I was trying to achieve. As a result, my focus changed. Tacpac has primarily been used with PMLD non-mobile children. I wanted to explore if over a period of time I could engage a more mobile student with Tacpac so that I could support other classes with introducing it as part of their weekly timetable.

Context

- To carry out weekly Tacpac sessions with a more mobile pupil in order to be able to support colleagues who would like to use Tacpac with their class.
- To assess the benefits of Tacpac for a specific pupil.



Plan

- Choose a specific pupil not in my class and carry out a weekly Tacpac session with them.
- Invite other teachers and TAs from Alma classes to attend Tacpac training.



Do

- Carry out weekly Tacpac session with specific pupil.
- Explore a variety of methods and locations in order to engage pupil in Tacpac sessions. Review these weekly in response to student's reactions and responses to sessions, written observations and videos of sessions.

Review

- It took approximately six sessions for the pupil to be relaxed and fully engaged in the Tacpac session.
- Initially the pupil participated in the session in order to gain the reward of playing with his favourite toy. This was reduced by gradually placing the toy outside the area we were working in.
- At first the session was 1:1 in the dark room area of the classroom but the pupil found it difficult to engage and didn't seem to be getting any benefits from the session.
- In the fourth session the pupil took part in the whole class Tacpac session and was much more relaxed and engaged.
- In each subsequent session, the pupil would independently lie down on a mat and hand me the resources for Tacpac.
- After each session the pupil was calm, relaxed and often quite sleepy.

Conclusion

When using Tacpac with more mobile students, it is important to follow their lead with how much of the session they can tolerate and the best environment for them to work in. A motivator such as a favourite toy is useful to gain initial engagement. The routine of Tacpac had clear benefits in terms of relaxing and calming the pupil.