



# UMCA Information Deck

*“Children with Special Needs Create, while their Families Chat!”*

# Deon & Elijah's Story

I am Deon Jones, the heart behind Uniquely Me Creative Arts (UMCA), an organization born out of love and necessity. UMCA was inspired by my son Elijah, who was born with Down Syndrome and later diagnosed with autism. As a result of his diagnosis, Elijah struggles with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD). SPD is a condition where the brain has difficulty processing and responding to information received through the senses, which presents behavioral challenges for special needs children. Elijah's struggles with SPD led me to create UMCA.

In addition to Elijah's unique abilities, my professional background also ignited the fire to start UMCA. I am a dedicated and passionate educator with 15 years of instructional experience within the New York City Department of Education - as a special education teacher, assistant principal, and my current position as a district achievement math instructional specialist.

As a lifelong Brooklynite, I collaborate with elected officials and community-based organizations, to provide resource fairs, seminars, and family workshops for children with special needs and their families.

Together, we are making a meaningful impact.

Sincerely,

**Deon Jones**, *UMCA Founder*



# Introduction to “UMCA”

Children with Special Needs **CREATE** , while their Families **CHAT!**

- Founded in 2023 in Brooklyn, NY, UMCA is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
- [Sensory-focused Creative Arts Workshops](#): Tailored art sessions focusing on tactile, auditory, and visual stimuli to help children develop their sensory processing skills in the children’s sensory room.
- [Family Chats](#): Engaging workshops where various therapists and those who work with special needs children come and share their resources with our families during the “FAMILY CHAT” time!

## UMCA's Impact

**More than  
100+ Families**

UMCA has helped over 106 families, providing their children with a safe and inclusive space to interact with their peers while providing families with resources through our family chats.



## Uniquely Me Creative Arts (UMCA)

### MISSION

UMCA's mission is to improve sensory processing disorder for children with special needs through sensory-focused creative arts activities while their families engage in family chats led by experts in the special needs field.



UMCA envisions a world where every special needs child finds their unique creative voice and lives an inclusive life while their families share a journey of love and empowerment.



## Mission & Vision



# Core Values

## Our Core Values



### Empathy & Support

We understand the challenges special needs children and their families face living with Sensory Processing Disorder. We are committed to providing a safe and caring environment where everyone feels heard and understood.



### Knowledge & Growth

We aim to empower families with the knowledge they need to navigate Sensory Processing Disorder effectively and foster personal growth for all involved.



# UNIQUELY ME CREATIVE ARTS



## UMCA'S MISSION:

Improving sensory processing disorder for children with special needs through sensory-focused creative arts activities while their families engage in family chats led by experts in the field.



## WHAT WE OFFER:

### FREE Sensory Zone Drop-In Classes

free & registration required

📍 1047 A Fulton St. BK, NY (11:00pm- 2:30pm)

Age Groups:

3-10 (11am-12:30pm) & 11-18 (12:40pm-2:30pm)

Drop-in classes are offered every Saturday.



## Sensory Saturdays

ONLY FOR "10 TOES DOWN" UMCA FAMILIES.  
📍 Bethany BK, NY

Every Second Saturday of each month

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Offers sensory-rich creative arts for children with special needs and family chats led by experts in the field. (Family Respite)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
<https://www.umcanyc.org>

## Sensory Curriculum

An evidenced-based- NYS Next Generation Learning Standards aligned sensory curriculum designed to support special schools and their entire school community!



[umcanyc.org](https://www.umcanyc.org)



[umcanyc](https://www.instagram.com/umcanyc)



631-881-8716

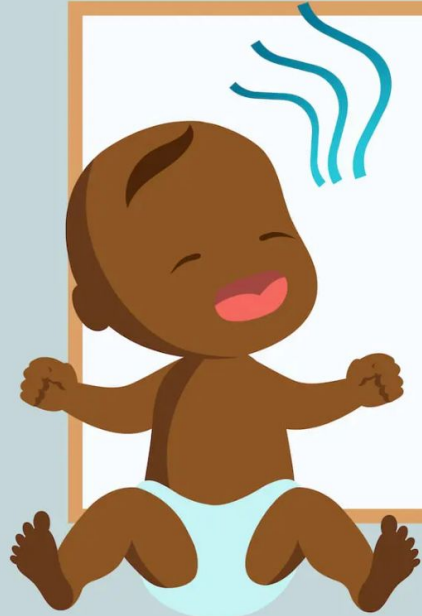


[admin@umcanyc.org](mailto:admin@umcanyc.org)

Registered 501(c)(3)

# What is Sensory Processing Disorder?

## SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDERS



### PROBLEMS PROCESSING STIMULI

Sensory processing disorder (SPD) is a condition that relates to the way the nervous system receives messages from the senses and turns them into appropriate responses.

SPD occurs when these sensory signals are not detected by the brain or are not matched with the correct responses. This can cause a person with sensory processing disorder to either over-respond (the sensory stimulation is too overwhelming) or under-respond (by showing little to no reaction to stimulation).



# 8 Senses that impact our daily living skills

## Olfactory

Sense of smell  
Info. received through the nose

## Gustatory

Sense of taste  
Info. received through the mouth

## Vestibular

Sense of balance and spatial orientation

## Tactile

Sense of touch  
Info. received by contact through the skin

# 8 SENSES

THE SENSORY SYSTEM

## Auditory

Sense of sound  
Info. received through the

## Proprioception

Awareness of body in space and strength needed to complete actions

## Interoception

Awareness of internal bodily states

## Visual

Sense of sight  
Info. received through the



# Sensory Diet to support our 8 senses

## Sensory Diet

Aim to address all Sensory Systems

### Tactile/Touch

- Vibration
- Brushing
- Sensory Bins
- Fidgets
- Massage (deep pressure)
- Weighted blanket
- Messy play
- Walking barefoot

### Olfactory/Smell

- Essential oils
- Scented lotion
- Scented bubble bath

### Auditory

- Music
- White noise
- Listening Program

### Vestibular

- Balance board
- Swing
- Slide
- Trampoline
- Bouncing/Jumping

### Visual

- Lava lamps
- Dimmed lights

### Oral Motor

- Chewy tubes
- Blowing (bubbles, musical instruments)
- Drinking thick liquids through straw
- Vibrating toothbrush
- Chewy/crunchy foods
- Sports cap bottle

### Proprioception

- Weighted vest
- Weighted blanket/lap pad
- Blanket Burrito
- Ball squishes (deep pressure)
- Heavy work activities
- Pushing and pulling tasks
- Steamroller

### Gustatory/Taste

- Meal time options (ex: Bold flavors - alerting)
- Food temperature (ex: Cold - alerting)



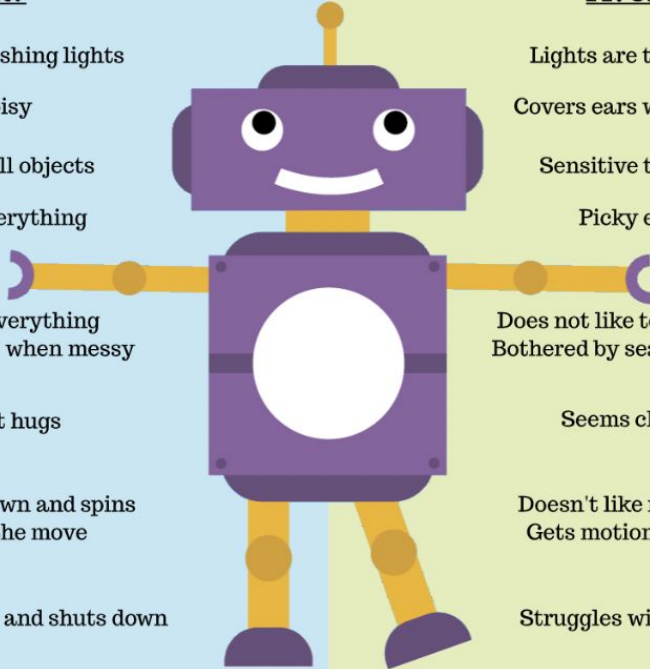
# Sensory Seekers and Avoiders

Explore how to help your child with Sensory Processing Disorder

Does your kid...

## Seek?

- Likes bright, flashing lights
- Very noisy
- Likes to smell objects
- Chews on everything
- Touches everything
- Doesn't notice when messy
- Likes tight hugs
- Hangs upside down and spins
- Always on the move
- Gets overstimulated and shuts down



## Avoid?

- Lights are too bright
- Covers ears with noises
- Sensitive to smells
- Picky eater
- Does not like to be touched
- Bothered by seams and tags
- Seems clumsy
- Doesn't like movement
- Gets motion sickness
- Struggles with change



# Household items to support our 8 senses

## Sensory Processing Disorder: At-Home Strategies Using Household Items

**TOUCH:** Use a sensory bin with rice, pasta, or beans.

**VISION:** Create a picture schedule using printed icons or drawings.

**HEARING:** Use noise-canceling headphones or play calming music.

**SMELL:** Make scent jars using cotton balls and vanilla, lemon, or lavender extracts.

**TASTE:** Blend fruit smoothies or explore textures with crunchy or chewy snacks.

**VESTIBULAR:** Set up a cushion path or spinning on a swivel chair for movement input.

**PROPRIOCEPTION:** Engage in 'heavy work' like pushing a laundry basket or carrying books.

**INTEROCEPTION:** Practice deep breathing, mindfulness, or use a warm compress.



# Sensory Zone



## Sensory Zone Drop-In Class

Every Saturday  
11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Ages 3-10 | 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Ages 11-18 | 12:40 PM - 2:10 PM

- ✓ CHESS
- ✓ META GLASSES
- ✓ ROCK CLIMBING WALL
- ✓ TRAMPOLINE
- ✓ SENSORY SAND
- ✓ MUSIC & ART STATIONS
- ✓ DANCE & MOVEMENT
- ✓ GARDEN SPACE (WEATHER PERMITTED)



1047 A Fulton Street, BK, NY  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED\*\*  
BIT.LY/UMCA19  
FREE PROGRAM

ALL ABILITIES ARE  
WELCOME!



umcany.org | umcanyc | 631-881-8716 | umcanyc@gmail.com

Registered 501(c)(3)



## Zona Sensorial Clase de Entrada Libre

Todos los sábados  
11:00 - 2:30

De 3 a 10 años | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

De 11 a 18 años | 12:40 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.

- ✓ JEDREZ
- ✓ GAFAS DE META
- ✓ MURO DE ESCALADA
- ✓ TRAMPOLIN
- ✓ ARENA SENSORIAL
- ✓ ESTACIONES DE MUSICA Y ARTE
- ✓ BAILE Y MOVIMIENTO
- ✓ JARDIN (SI EL TIEMPO LO PERMITE)



1047 A Fulton Street, BK, NY  
REQUIERE REGISTRO\*\*  
BIT.LY/UMCA19  
GRATIS

¡TODAS LAS HABILIDADES  
SON BIENVENIDAS!



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Registered 501(c)(3)

# Sensory Zone

# Parent

# Testimony

# Parent Testimony



# Children Programming

- Sensory Eggs
- Sensory Bottles
- Sensory Bags
- Silent headphone party
- Drama Sensory Stations
- Music Sensory Stations
- Art Sensory Stations
- Trampoline Stations
- Obstacle Courses
- Spring Sensory Festival
  - Sensory Clouds
  - Sensory Ornaments

# UMCA's Children Programming



Keynote Speaker: Deputy Brooklyn Borough  
President Rev. Kim Council

Saturday | March 21, 2026 | 10 AM - 12:00 PM

Bethany Baptist Church  
460 Marcus Garvey Blvd, Brooklyn, NY



Childcare & sensory activities provided!

Cost Provided & Please Call/Email if You Need Accommodations  
E.g., ASL

REGISTER HERE:

bit.ly/umca21



Interested? Join us at B&M and Bethany!

 <b>MAR 7</b> 2026	<b>SENSORY ZONE DROP-IN CLASSES</b> 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM 1047 A Fulton Street Brooklyn, NY
 <b>MAR 14</b> 2026	<b>UMCA GRAM BEHAVIOR STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM BAM KBH 10 Lafayette Ave Brooklyn, NY
 <b>MAR 21</b> 2026	<b>LEGISLATIVE &amp; CLERGY BREAKFAST</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Bethany Baptist Church 460 Marcus Garvey Blvd Brooklyn, NY
 <b>MAR 28</b> 2026	<b>SENSORY ZONE DROP-IN CLASSES</b> 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM 1047 A Fulton Street Brooklyn NY

All Abilities are Welcome!

umcanc.org | umcanc | 631-881-8716 | admin@umcanc.org



# UMCA x BAM



## UNIQUELY ME CREATIVE ARTS & BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Presents:  
**Behavioral Strategies for  
Children with Special Needs**



Join us for an informative session focused on practical, evidence-based behavior strategies to support children with special needs

**Audience: caregivers, educators, and professionals**  
Child care friendly

Presentation By:  
**Sam Blanco BCBA-D, PhD, LBA**

 **March 14, 2026**  
10:00AM-12:00PM



bit.ly/umcaxbam

  
**Different Roads**  
Your ASD authority since 1995  
 **BAM KBH**  
10 Lafayette Ave  
Brooklyn, NY, 11217  
**Seats are limited!**

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Registered 501(c)(3)



# UMCA's 2026 Legislative & Clergy Breakfast



Faith and Government   
United for Special Needs Care

UNIQUELY ME CREATIVE ARTS

Legislative & Clergy Breakfast

Keynote Speaker: Deputy Brooklyn Borough  
President Rev. Kim Council

Saturday | March 21, 2026 | 10 AM - 12:00 PM

Bethany Baptist Church  
460 Marcus Garvey Blvd, Brooklyn, NY



**Childcare & sensory activities provided!**

Cart Provided & Please Call/Email If You Need Accommodations  
E.G., ASL



REGISTER HERE:  
[bit.ly/umca31](https://bit.ly/umca31)



# UMCA Family Chats Guest

## Speakers:

- Occupational Therapist Jennifer Calvin
- Dr. Beatrice Hector of Sensory Street Pediatrics
- Wellness Coach Stephanie Carnegie
- Behavior Therapist Tashini Ramedo
- Physical & Yoga Therapist Nancy Ferreria
- Dr. Denise Gibbs, Physical Therapist
- Sushma Meka, NYCPS School Psychologist
- Dr. Sam Blanco, BCBA
- Janet Delgado-BCBA

# UMCA Family Chats





# UMCA Families

[UMCA Mom's Night Out Click for Video](#)

[UMCA Mom's Brunch](#)

[Massages for Moms](#)



We offer Sensory Creative Arts Curriculum aligned to the Next Generation Visual Arts Standards.

## UMCA x ADAPT Community Network Partnership



# Parent Testimony



Parent Testimony



# Thank You to Our Community Partners

## Second Annual Fundraiser Reel by Host Dr. Keith Perrin

**SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

**"UNITED BY UNIQUE ABILITIES"**

**THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

UNIQUELY ME CREATIVE ARTS

JEFFRIES NYE

NY State Senator PHARA SOUFFRANT FORREST

NY State Senator Jabari Brisport

RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS BANK

BBC

AACGC

THE FACTORY BOUTIQUE

include nyc

PRIDE FAMILY SERVICES

FUBU RAD:O

NYCTRC

SHANE'S

The Simpson

My TIME inc.

Key Food

cynergy

CDSC

NEW YORK LIFE

Bed-Stuy Fish Fry

PRIMERICA

Bklyn Public Library

Fusing Education

TAKAYAH LLC

Scan the QR Code to Donate to UMCA!

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# What's Next @ UMCA?

## EVENT SCHEDULE

Uniquely Me Creative Arts

MARCH  
2026



### PLEASE NOTE:

Sensory Zone Drop-In Classes is closed March 14<sup>th</sup> & 21  
Instead, join us at BAM and Bethany!



MAR 7  
2026

#### SENSORY ZONE DROP-IN CLASSES

11:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
1047 A Fulton Street  
Brooklyn, NY



MAR 14  
2026

#### UMCA @BAM BEHAVIOR STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
BAM KBH 10 Lafayette Ave  
Brooklyn, NY



MAR 21  
2026

#### LEGISLATIVE & CLERGY BREAKFAST

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Brooklyn, NY



MAR 28  
2026

#### SENSORY ZONE DROP-IN CLASSES

11:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
1047 A Fulton Street  
Brooklyn NY

All Abilities are Welcome!

## HORARIO DEL EVENTO

Uniquely Me Creative Arts

MARZO  
2026



NOTA: Las clases sin cita previa de Sensory Zone  
estarán cerradas el 14 y el 21 de marzo  
¡En cambio, únase a nosotros en BAM y Bethany!



MAR 7  
2026

#### ZONA SENSORIAL CLASES SIN CITA PREVIA

11:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
Calle Fulton 1047  
Brooklyn, Nueva York



MAR 14  
2026

#### ESTRATEGIAS DE COMPORTAMIENTO PARA NIÑOS CON NECESIDADES ESPECIALES

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
BAM KBH 10 Lafayette Ave  
Brooklyn, Nueva York



MAR 21  
2026

#### DESAYUNO LEGISLATIVO Y DEL CLERO

10 AM - 12:00 PM  
Iglesia Bautista Bethany  
460 Marcus Garvey Blvd  
Brooklyn, Nueva York



MAR 28  
2026

#### ZONA SENSORIAL CLASES SIN CITA PREVIA

11:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
Calle Fulton 1047  
Brooklyn Nueva York

¡Todas las capacidades son bienvenidas!

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631-881-8716



admin@umcanyc.org



**PLEASE DONATE & STAY  
CONNECTED TO TO UMCA!**

**DONATE  
HERE**



**WEBSITE**



**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! THANK YOU!**

