

# Easterseals Iowa – One Big Thing



## Introducing a Sensory Room Equipped with Assistive Technology

Iowa Special Olympics Annual Games | May 2025 | Iowa State University

The Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology Program played an integral role in creating an accommodating sensory space for athletes during the 2025 Iowa Special Olympics Games.



**Special  
Olympics  
Iowa**

### Why a Sensory Room Matters

- Provides a calm space for regulation
- Reduces anxiety and stress
- Supports inclusion and accessibility
- Creates a safe environment
- Helps manage sensory overload

### Impact on Athletes

- Supports athletes with sensory needs
- Improves focus and performance
- Allows athletes to reset and return to competition regulated and ready

### Assistive Technology in Action

Over the two-day event, athletes and families accessed a wide range of AT supports.

### 75+ Assistive Technology Devices Available



**132**  
**ASSISTIVE  
TECHNOLOGY  
DEMONSTRATIONS**

**OVER 25 FAMILIES  
USED OUR  
SENSORY ROOM**

### Favorite Sensory Tools

#### Visual Stimulating Devices:

- Fiber optic lights
- Bubble tubes
- Color-changing lights

#### Proprioceptive & Vestibular Supports:

- Compression vests
- Vibrating buzzy-bee

#### Tactile Items:

- Weighted items
- Textured tiles
- Sensory balls & fidgets

#### Auditory Aids:

- Noise-reduction headphones
- White noise machines

#### Calming Spaces:

- Sensory tents with soft seating

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND SENSORY-FRIENDLY SPACES EMPOWER ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE FULLY, CONFIDENTLY, AND INCLUSIVELY.**