INTENSIVE INTERACTION

An Introduction

This leaflet is intended to give you an introduction to Intensive Interaction: a therapeutic approach to meeting the fundamental communication needs of children and young people and adults with profound and complex difficulties.

**What is Intensive Interaction?**

Intensive Interaction is an approach for teaching the Fundamentals of Communication to people who have severe learning difficulties and/or autism and are still basically at pre-speech levels of development.

The learning takes place within enjoyable and repetitive interactions – activities where the teacher generates the content and flow of the activity by letting the learner lead and responding to and joining in with the learner’s behaviour.

The structure of teaching and learning is based on knowledge of how all people learn these fundamentals of communication during the first two years.

**The Fundamentals of Communication**

- enjoying being with another person
- developing the ability to attend to that person
- concentration and attention span
- learning to do sequences of activity with the other person
- taking turns in exchanges of behaviour
- sharing personal space
- using and understanding eye contacts
- using and understanding facial expressions
- using and understanding physical contacts
- using and understanding non-verbal communication
- using vocalisations with meaning
- learning to regulate and control arousal levels
What is “interactive” about Intensive Interaction?

The learner is an acknowledged and fully active participant, influencing the process and progression of the activity just as much as the teacher does (if not more).

3 PRINCIPLES

- The learner is active
- The learner shares control of the activity with the teacher
- The learning is intrinsically rewarding and motivating

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For more information about Intensive Interaction please contact:

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