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Interaction and communication with adults who are congenitally deafblind

Is it possible to improve interaction and
communication in adulthood?

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- Background
- Scientific research
- Cortisol
- Intervention study

Intervention study



- Improve interaction and communication
- October 2009 - July 2010
- Multiple baseline design
- Baseline 4 – 12 weeks
- Intervention 15 weeks
- Follow up after 3, 7 and 11 weeks
- 5 congenitally deafblind participants
- 10 caregivers
- 20 minute video recording of each couple on a weekly basis
- 5 coaching sessions per caregiver

Intervention

- Method CONTACT (Janssen, 2003)
- Bodily Emotional Traces (BET's) and narrative approach (Daelman et.al., 2001; Heijnen et.al., 2008)

Intervention principles CONTACT

- The focus is on the improvement of the insights and skills of the caregivers with regard to
- Recognition of the signals of the individual deafblind person and evaluation of the adequacy of their own interactive behaviors
 - Attunement of their behaviors to those of the children
 - Adaptation of the interactional context to promote the occurrence of particular behavior

Method CONTACT Categories of interaction



- Initiatives
- Confirmations
- Answers
- Turns
- Attention
- Intensity
- Affective involvement
- Independent acting

Bodily Emotional Trace (BET)




- A BET is in the mind
- Gestures with high meaning potential
- Gestures charged with reminiscences of past experiences
- An expression based on a BET is connected with the experience that it refers to in a bodily way. It is loaded with emotion.

5 categories

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- Movement
- Location
- Sensation
- Position
- Invisible

Evoke expressions based on a BET

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- Good quality of interaction
- Introducing novelty, expected or non-expected

Narrative approach



- Emotional involvement
- Communicate in a bodily-tactile way that something exciting is going on
- Imitate and expand on the utterances of the deafblind person
- During the experience comment on it by way of drama, gestures and mime, in order to strengthen the impressions
- Talk about an experience afterwards

Questions?



References

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