

DEAFBLIND OR MENTALLY RETARDED

A case story of Patricia, Vilnius

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Assessment



Medical assessment	Functional assessment	Relational assessment
Vision Hearing Other areas	Vision Hearing Tactile senses	Social interaction Communication Exploration Motor and movement skills



Duplications of 6p

A duplication of 6p means that there is extra material from one of the body's 46 chromosomes – chromosome 6.

Extra material is likely to disturb development.

Overall we can't identify a clear enough pattern of similarities to say that there is a 6p duplication syndrome

Patricia – 8 years

Medical assessment	Functional assessment	Relational assessment
<p>Main diagnose: partial trisomy 6p</p> <p>Hearing 40-50 dB</p> <p>Vision: Left eye: Ptosis, nystagmus, microphthalmus.</p>	<p>Hearing: Almost normally hears: whispering, low voices, paper being torn, spoon rattling in a cup,</p> <p>Vision: No direct eye contact Sees better to the right side. Poor vision acuity to the left. Best distance:15-20 cm. Hands are not supportive.</p>	<p>Sensory disintegration: uses only one sense at a time</p> <p>Can talk to only one person at the time – face to face.</p>

INTERVENTION IDEAS

- More structured activities
- Slow pace
- Tactile signs and sign language
- Tactile approach
- Telling Patricia about the activity before and after
- More dialogue
- Expecting Patricia to express herself more

Patricia 6 months later

She started from 3-5 expressive signs, now she uses 50 adapted signs

Parents and grandparents are learning sign language.

Patricia's little brother has also started to use sign language.

Communication

Communication arises from actions and experiences, impressions and necessities connected with joint activities, and in the normal life it is never an explicit task in itself.

Communication is always one ingredient in a complex whole.

Focus should be on intention to say something, not the quality of performance.

Per Lorentzen (Norway)

What is the basis for discovering deafblindness?

While observing you may notice:

- Active use of touch and movement in all or some aspects of communication
- Sporadic functional use of vision and hearing
- Vision and hearing are rarely used simultaneously
- Not able to communicate with more than one person at a time without compensatory measures