

WerkWijzer

A method supporting children with autism spectrum disorders and visual impairment

Because

There is an increasing incidence of children with both a visual impairment and an autism spectrum disorder
This combination of disorders asks for a specific approach

Why?

Understanding of the environment (sense-making) is an essential problem:

- because of the autism perception is fragmented: children are more focused on details and less on the whole (poor central coherence)
- because of the visual impairment: visual information is less accessible

Method

- Enhancing and (re-)arranging the environment, in such a way that it is meaningful for the child
- Using augmentative communication tailored to the individual needs of the child

The method is used in the same way in all daily living situations of the child (e.g. at home, school)

Augmentative communication

Space, time and activities are structured and clarified in an individualized manner for the child, taking into account the cognitive and visual abilities and the child's level of sense-making

Focused on

- Children in the age of 4-12 years, average to below average cognitive abilities (IQ > 70)
- MDVI children and adults

