

Meeting the fundamental communication needs of people with learning difficulties

INTENSIVE INTERACTION

Friday 9th November 2012

9.30 am – 4.00 pm

Venue: Ardsley House Hotel, Ardsley, Barnsley S71 5EH

Course Leader:
Dr Dave Hewett

This course will be of interest to staff of all disciplines who work with adults and children with learning difficulties, including social services staff, teachers and assistants, nurses, staff from voluntary organisations, therapists and indeed parents and other carers.

The focus is on the communication needs of people who have not achieved use nor perhaps understanding of speech and may be 'difficult to reach' in various ways. Intensive Interaction is an approach where the member of staff is seen as the main teaching resource, using personal qualities of face, voice and body language to involve the learner in progressive sequences of interactive activities. These activities provide the person with learning difficulties with the opportunity to learn the pre-speech fundamentals of communication such as enjoying being with another person, giving sustained attention, turn-taking, use and understanding of eye contacts, facial expressions, body language and non-verbal signalling.

The course will include small and large group work and extensive use of video examples. Comprehensive hand-outs will be given. Course members should expect to work in a warm, humorous and supportive atmosphere.

Dave Hewett is a freelance trainer and consultant for staff working in the field of learning disability. Previously he was Headteacher at Harperbury Hospital School, Hertfordshire, working with Melanie Nind and the staff to develop and research Intensive Interaction. He has published extensively on challenging behaviour and communication, including the book on Intensive Interaction "Access to Communication" (with Melanie Nind).

COURSE PROGRAMME INCLUDES

- The development of Intensive Interaction
- How people learn to communicate and relate in infancy
- The fundamentals of communication
- The principles of Intensive Interaction
- How to do Intensive Interaction
- Organising work on Intensive Interaction
- Record-keeping and documentation
- Issues: age-appropriateness, challenging behaviours, physical contact, teamwork, ethics, emotional bonding/professional objectivity