

Workshops

Thursday, 18 September 2025

10.40-11.40



10.40-11.40 (60 mins.)

Theme:

How I use “Fun and Playfulness” in my work with people with physical, mental and learning disabilities.

Presenter(s):

Ronja Frida Johnsen, Social worker
- Landsbyen Sølund
Skanderborg, Denmark
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I would like to tell you about how I use fun and playfulness in my everyday work in the Community Village Sølund. I would like to tell you a few stories about 4 of the people living where I work, and how I have used fun and playfulness to help in different ways. I will tell you about my 2 toy birds Boneless Bob and Bitchy Betty and how they help me in my work and how their different personality speaks to the connection with 2 of the people living in House 40.

I will tell you about how I use small homemade videos on an iPad to document our relationship and history, and how it gives Thomas great joy to watch them both with me and my colleagues, and furthermore it gives Thomas a connection between his home in Sølund and his childhood home with his parents. I would like to show a small video of a toothbrushing situation, where I suddenly got a success with a Playfull approach, so going from toothbrushing being a thing Daniel didn't like, to being a thing he asks for and remembers himself. And finally, I will tell how a little toy mouse in the refrigerator helped a woman getting a good start of the day.



10.40-11.40 (60 mins.)

Theme:

The impact of GT on our lives and community

Presenter(s):

Michiel Snippe, Care Entrepreneur
- Thomashuis Coevorden
Coevorden, The Netherlands
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In the workshop the focus will be on our way of life and how GT enriched our lives and the people we serve. I will talk about living in a house, “Thomashuis”, with 9 people with mental handicaps together with my wife and our two daughters. For our daughters they are like a second family. Besides living and working in our “Thomashuis”, we have a little daycare center and a coffee- and teashop in Coevorden. In our daycare center we have also four apartments for four boys, two of them with psychological problems and the other two with a mild mental handicap and autism. We came in touch with Gentle Teaching in 2010, when we visited a GTI-conference in Haarlem.

We also met John Mcgee there and got inspired by GT. Since then, we visited some more GTI-conferences and got in touch with a lot of inspiring people around the world. Since then, we followed different courses and use GT as our method/ attitude/etc. in working with the people we serve. Since 2023 I also train other companies and teams in Gentle Teaching, and I am the chairman of the Gentle Teaching foundation Netherlands.



10.40-11.40 (60 mins.)

Theme:

Gentle hands – perspectives on a Gentle Teaching tool

Presenter(s):

Marlene Theager - Special Education Consultant and VISO Specialist, Sødisebakke
Mariager, Denmark
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In the North Denmark Region, we present the invaluable role of the hands through the slogan ‘In good hands’, both in the social and health field and for every citizen. Even the logo shows the heart – life and love itself – supported and protected by safe and embracing hands. With both the motto and the illustration, we express that there is a continuous focus on safety, professionalism, competences and care, so that everyone, without exception, can feel that they are... well, in good hands! It speaks directly to one of Gentle Teaching's central tools, where the hands contain a lot of symbolism, life story and intention, and where touch is one of both intuitive and conscious ways to contact and connectedness.

Hands can do SO much and tell SO much!