

Workshops

Wednesday, 17 September 2025
10.40-11.40



10.40-11.40 (60 mins.)

Theme:

Introduction to Applied Video Analysis (AVA)

Presenter(s):

Brendan Maguire
Founder of Learning Together
Gloucester, United Kingdom
Brendan.Maguire@learning-together.org

This presentation looks to a future where the values of Gentle Teaching are alive and well. Applied Video Analysis (AVA) is based on the Circle of Support model (Forest, Snow & Pearpoint, 1994).

Put very simply, AVA is a guided process whereby the person at the centre collaborates with their circle of friends to build a library of video resources evidencing how that person likes to be supported.

It aims to help parents address one of their biggest worries: "What will happen to my child when I am gone?" AVA helps to ensure that agreed ways of supporting are clear for all to see and that a library of Good Enough Videos is available to help introduce new caregivers to agreed ways of supporting the person.

All those in the Circle of Support are expected to complete some basic training and commit to ongoing AVA.



10.40-11.40 (60 mins.)

Theme:

Gentle Teaching Mentorship in Canada

Presenter(s):

Tim Jones, Chief Learning Officer
– Creative Options Regina
Katelyn MacVicar, Resident care
– Hearthstone Community
Saskatchewan, Selkirk, Canada
tim@coracademy.ca
katelyn.macvicar@hcginc.ca

In this presentation we will discuss the method in which people become Certified Gentle Teaching Mentors in Canada, including the standards and structure of the process.

In addition, we will share how Gentle Teaching Canada (GTC) (which now includes 9 organizations and 28 Certified Mentors) has been developed over the years, what GTC is currently doing and the benefits having a GTC network provides.

Our goal of this session is to inform people of what we are doing in Canada and hope to inspire and provide a road map that other countries can adopt in developing their own national Gentle Teaching networks and certifications processes.



10.40-11.40 (60 mins.)

Theme:

I'll Be There for You: Gentle Teaching and Building Meaningful Connections

Presenter(s):

Kristen Mathews
Chief Operations Officer – Eiros Group
New Jersey, USA
kristenm@eiros-group.com

This interactive workshop will explore the principles of Gentle Teaching through a unique and engaging lens using storytelling, humour, and pop culture references inspired by the TV show Friends.

Drawing from my experience with Charting the LifeCourse and Gentle Teaching, this session will incorporate practical tools and philosophies to demonstrate how we can build relationships rooted in safety, trust, and unconditional love.

Participants will engage in hands on activities that illustrate how Gentle Teaching can be applied in real world settings to foster meaningful, supportive environments.

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10.40-11.10 (30 mins.)

Theme:

Gentle Teaching in 2035?

Presenter(s):

Ulrik Mørch Rasmussen - Housing Unit Manager,
Landsbyen Sølund
Skandeborg, Denmark
Ulrik.morch.rasmussen@skanderborg.dk

The presentation explores how Gentle Teaching can remain a dynamic and evolving philosophy by embracing new professional disciplines, healthcare knowledge, and technology, while staying true to its core values. The theme of this year's conference emphasizes the diversity and adaptability of Gentle Teaching across different cultures, professional backgrounds, and practical settings.

My presentation will contribute by addressing:
How technological advancements (e.g., diaper sensors) can enhance well-being when applied within the framework of Gentle Teaching.
How healthcare professionals (e.g., nurses, occupational therapists) can play a crucial role in ensuring high-quality care without compromising Gentle Teaching's humanistic principles.

The risk of stagnation if Gentle Teaching resists change, and how we can navigate necessary adaptations while preserving core values.



10.40-11.10 (30 mins.)

Theme:

A More Colorful Community

Presenter(s):

Pancho Azevedo
Bookbinding Workshop Creator - Assol
Oliveira De Frades, Portugal
ofcriativa@assol.pt

This presentation explores the importance of fostering inclusive environments in companies by integrating people with disabilities into their workforce. It focuses on how businesses, as integral members of the communities they operate in, can contribute to social change by offering opportunities for individuals with disabilities, creating a more diverse and inclusive society.

The communication will highlight the social and economic benefits of inclusion, providing examples of best practices where companies engage in "socially useful activities" (ASU) that promote equal opportunities, participation, and a sense of belonging for everyone, regardless of ability.