

# Workshops

Thursday, 18 September 2025

13.00-14.00



13.00-13.30 (30 mins.)

**Theme:**

Gentle hands – perspectives on a Gentle Teaching tool

**Presenter(s):**

Marlene Theager - Special Education Consultant and VISO Specialist, Sødisebakke Mariager, Denmark  
m.theager@rn.dk

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!



13.30-14.00 (30 mins.)

**Theme:**

They used to want you – now WE want you even more.

**Presenter(s):**

Kirsten Hansen - Social and Health Care Assistant, Landsbyen Sølund  
Kirsten Ritz - Social Educator, Landsbyen Sølund Skanderborg, Denmark  
Kirsten.hansen.rasmussen@skanderborg.dk

We aim to describe a residential facility that has undergone significant development and a major staff transition over the past three years. This journey has led to remarkable improvements in the well-being of each resident, who now experiences greater happiness and stability in daily life.

Today, the staff team is a cohesive blend of various professional backgrounds, working together to enhance each other's strengths. We build our daily interactions on trust and mutual respect, fostering a healthy culture of constructive disagreement, where we value each other's expertise and embrace continuous learning.

Our approach is rooted in the experiences of our residents, who have been part of this transformation. We explore why and how our team successfully reshaped the living environment—guided by the principles of Gentle Teaching (GT).



13.00-14.00 (60 mins.)

**Theme:**

The essence of Gentle Teaching - all the colors

**Presenter(s):**

Vivi Storm Skou & Mentors  
Educator and leader of living unit  
- Sølund, Skanderborg, Denmark  
vivi.storm.skou@skanderborg.dk

The gentle teaching mentors and I will be telling you about how we work with the essence of Gentle Teaching and how we educate and inspire each other in the community and how we most of all develop practice, where the people we help feel secure and safe, loved and valued, warm and loving towards others and engaged in our community. We will also tell you about how we secure development both professionally and personally for all our colleagues.

Since 2002 we have been developing a lot of professional methods on the foundation of Gentle Teaching values: neuro pedagogy, life stories, developmental psychology, integration of the senses, play therapy, sand play therapy and many other tools and methods. Which we have made a lot of workshops about earlier on Gentle Teaching Conferences. We will also tell you about our work with implementing the methods in practice.



13.00-14.00 (60 mins.)

**Theme:**

Sharing the Key Elements of Gentle Teaching with Others

**Presenter(s):**

Deirdre Mercer  
Director of Training, Community Living Services  
Michigan, USA  
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Regardless of the role we serve in the lives of others, Gentle Teaching must start with us. Our role as caregivers, teachers, and leaders in a culture of gentleness calls on us to commit to both personal and social change. To express unconditional value to others, we must first have a concrete understanding of the impact of our interactions, especially with those who are marginalized or feel unsafe.

This 60-minute presentation will introduce participants to a variety of hands-on activities designed to deepen their understanding of the key elements of Gentle Teaching. These practical demonstrations will not only enhance comprehension but also empower participants to effectively teach these concepts to others using engaging and accessible methods.