

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:

Using Gentle Teaching to prepare people with disabilities, their friends and family, old and new caregivers for transitions.

Presenter(s):

Marge Brown, Clinical Trainer - Merakey
Pennsylvania, USA
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Transition is difficult for all of us. Major milestones like leaving home for higher education, starting a new job and perhaps moving to a new town and making new friends. Transition is even more difficult for people with disabilities, especially those who have lived for a long time surrounded by family and caregivers who make all their decisions for them. Where do they begin? I have found that using the pillars and tools of Gentle Teaching is the best way to smooth the way for all involved to have successful transitions.



10.40-11.10 (30 mins.)

Theme:

Youth Delinquency and Gentle Teaching

Presenter(s):

Anna Von Moll, Youth Care Worker
– Schar Treatment Center
Rene Seedorf, Youth Care Worker
– Schar Treatment Center
The Netherlands
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The practical research investigates how the effectiveness of Gentle Teaching, aimed at reducing delinquent behaviour in young people with mild intellectual disabilities (LVB), can be enhanced. The workshop will present the findings of this research and demonstrate effective intervention/prevention methods within the vision of Gentle Teaching.



11.10-11.40 (30 mins.)

Theme:

The impact of GT on our lives and community

Presenter(s):

Michiel Snippe, Care Entrepreneur
– Thomashuis Coevorden
Coevorden, The Netherlands
michiel@coevorden.thomashuis.nl

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.