

Abstract No. 3.4

Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 11:00-11:45

Title: Tactile sign language in communication with people with Congenital deafblindness

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Main focus: Mainly practice, Congenital deafblindness

Abstract:

Throughout the last years there has been an expanded focus and interest on the fact that not all people with CDB are developing their language according to their potentials. Knowing visual sign language help us to be able to see even small, weak or pro-gestures as potential signs. Idiosyncratic and “homemade” signs often emerge and have relevance to a specific context.

Gestures and bodily expressions are considered as signs from the body with intentional meaning and directedness towards someone. Maybe we can talk about “utterances”? Tactile sign language might be the concept to expand in order to give people with CDB a more nuanced language because it is richer than signs only performed in hands and/or gestures and bodily expressions.

This workshop will point out the importance of a focus on tactile sign language and how to get started. Also raise a discussion about focus on “utterances”, and their importance in communication with people with CDB.

Partners who are in relation and communicate with people with CDB will be able to use this knowledge in their further work. The main idea of this is for the partner always to be a step ahead of their deafblind communication partner.

The workshop will have videos and exercises to emphasize the idea. And present a Danish concept used in staff training on CDH.