

## **Taster Session: a FREE one-hour brief introduction to smiLE Therapy.**

smiLE Therapy: Strategies & Measurable Interaction in Live English was created in 2002 to explicitly develop pragmatic skills in DHH students. It gives deaf students a structured and meaningful way to learn essential communication and social skills for everyday use in the mainstream hearing world. Since 2009 smiLE Therapy has extended to client groups beyond deafness, to children and young people (CYP) and adults with Down Syndrome, Developmental Language Disorders, Learning Difficulties and Physical Disability. smiLE Therapy is also used with some Autistic CYP, where there are criteria and pre-requisites, and where smiLE Therapy is delivered in a different way to ensure it is neurodiverse-affirming. smiLE Therapy is used in mainstream and specialist school settings across primary, secondary, post 16 and 18-25 college settings across the UK. This taster will give an introduction to the therapy using video clips to illustrate before and after therapy outcomes & parent workshops to support generalisation of skills. Email us: [info@smiletherapytraining.com](mailto:info@smiletherapytraining.com)

## **Building social communication resilience to face the outside world**

Deaf students face disadvantages in everyday encounters in the community, which are well documented in the research literature. This is similar for students with other communication difficulties. These include fewer opportunities to learn social interaction skills, reduced strategies to repair communication breakdown and misunderstanding impacting on daily functioning eg. not understanding doctors' advice.

Researchers specifically called for a therapy to target this deficit in communication skills. To date smiLE Therapy is the only established intervention that targets this. It teaches communication in real situations, using before and after therapy videos of real interactions. smiLE Therapy builds communicative and social skills resilience. Through guided role-play, it raises awareness of how the lack of a skill or an inappropriate skill impacts on the communicative partner, so developing Theory of Mind. Crucially it includes the transfer of skills to the wider environment through school and family training, boosting self-esteem and mental wellbeing. Our aim is to share this innovation, the evidence behind it and our drive to improve outcomes for our stakeholders.

Impact assessment is structurally embedded in smiLE Therapy both quantitatively in pre- and post-therapy output measures and qualitatively through student, parent and staff discussion & questionnaires to capture the wider outcomes.

## **Recent presentations/articles include:**

**Schamroth, K. & Curtin, M.,** In press. *Using smiLE Therapy to develop pragmatic skills.* In Herman R. and Enns C., (eds) *Communication Interventions and Deaf People, Perspectives on Deafness.* Oxford, UK, Oxford University Press.

**Schamroth, K.** 'Supporting students to self-advocate'. BATOD, Sept 2024

**Schamroth, K** presenting at FEAPDA Conference, European Federation of Associations of Teachers of the Deaf, Dublin, April 2004: How smiLE Therapy supported a deaf and visually impaired teenager on their journey to independence and self-advocacy across seven years.

**Morgan, S & Schamroth, K** presentation, 2023 Linking Research to Practice Event, Centre For Language and Communication Science Research, School for Health and Psychological Sciences, City, University of London, 29.06.23. How a service evaluation by students can help answer a question - Could I use smiLE therapy with teenagers with Down Syndrome?. **Morgan, S** poster presentation, British Academy of Childhood Disability (BACD) Annual Scientific Meeting, Sheffield, theme Learning Disabilities: Is SmiLE therapy feasible, acceptable and can support communication development for teenagers with Down Syndrome? 22.06.23

**E. Anning (BSc), J. Jakubowicz (BSc), A. Saxby (MSc), S. Rowlands (MSc) (2022).** Is smiLE Therapy feasible and effective for adolescents with Down Syndrome? : A service evaluation. Unpublished MSc & BSc Research Project, City University: London. **Shuja H, Schamroth K,** BATOD National Conference, Sept 2022 'Hadiqa's teenage journey to independence, self-advocacy & well-being with smiLE Therapy'. **Schamroth K, Caffrey S,** 'Preparing for adulthood with three smiLE Therapy modules. Hadiqa's journey as a deaf and visually impaired young woman to self-advocacy' BATOD, Nov 2021; **Barnet Down Syndrome Leading Edge Group Conference,** Supporting the Speech, Language & Communication needs of School Age Children and Young People with Down Syndrome, Nov 2021; "Sorry, I think you're on mute" 15 year olds learning to manage a work experience online meeting - smiLE Therapy via teletherapy to **Clinical Excellence Network, Deafness,** Nov 2020. **Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists National Conference** 2019, **European Federation of Associations of Teachers of the Deaf** 2019, **Deaf Children Now Conference & Social Thinking Conference.**

## **smiLE Therapy Training.**

smiLE Therapy Training comprises 3 days of training, individual phone mentoring, workshops & ongoing termly CPD.

For details, please visit [www.smiletherapytraining.com](http://www.smiletherapytraining.com) Email: [info@smiletherapytraining.com](mailto:info@smiletherapytraining.com)