

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

smiLE Therapy: Strategies & Measurable Interaction in Live English was created in 2002 to give deaf students a structured and meaningful way to learn essential social communication 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 with Down Syndrome, Developmental Language Disorders, Learning Difficulties and Physical Disability. It is also used with certain Autistic Young People, where clear criteria and pre-requisites are established. Delivery is different with Autistic students, so as to best meet individual needs. 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

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 in deafness 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 resilience. Through guided role-play, it raises awareness of how the lack of a skill or an unexpected skill impacts on the hearing communicative partner, and whether this was the intention or not, so helping to develop perspective-taking. 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: *Morgan S, Schamroth K, Research into Practice, City Uni, June 2023 'How a service evaluation by students can help answer a question - Could I use smiLE therapy with teenagers with Down Syndrome?'; 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. Since 2007, over 2000 therapists and teachers have been trained across the UK and Internationally.*

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

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