

‘Can I Join you.....?’

Joint practice with SLT OT and Physio
with Deaf Children

at Frank Barnes School

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This is S. With Julie (SEYP) and Sheyanne (1:1) in the fabulous Frank Barnes nursery

About S

- S is 3 ½ years old. She was born at 34 weeks
- She has athetoid cerebral palsy
- She is severely deaf and has ANSD. She had bilateral cochlear implants at 20 months
- S was seen by MOSAIC until she started at Frank Barnes nursery at 2 ½ years.
- She is developing understanding and use of signs
- She is able to turn to her name and can hear a range of sounds such as musical instruments. She is beginning to associate sounds and objects eg miaow, woof woof, beepbeep

More about S.....

- S has a reduced awareness of where her body is in space
- She is not yet walking but is able to access her nursery environment through crawling and pulling herself to stand and cruising
- She is able to explore objects using two hands
- She lacks some trunk rotation and has poor core stability

Support for S

- S has weekly support from OT physio and SLT
- She is supported by a full time 1:1 who continues with AHP programmes through the week at nursery
- Frank Barnes nursery supports deaf children from the age of 2 years old. It has a bilingual philosophy helping children develop and learn through British Sign Language and English (spoken and written)

AHPs in Frank Barnes

- A number of children at Frank Barnes school have SLT, OT and physio support, with some having complex needs including sensory needs, autism, cerebral palsy or syndromes such as CHARGE
- We have worked closely together at different times over the years eg sharing targets
- We all currently work on Tuesdays in the nursery
- **‘Can I join you’**Following several useful, informal conversations about our different targets, we have joined each others therapy sessions within the nursery, and more recently have begun a more structured joint approach to therapy

Targets.....

- Attention Group (based on attention autism groups – Gina Davis)
- Small group with 3 children (2 are seen by all 3 AHPs)
- SLT aims:
 - To engage, develop joint attention and increase attention and watching in adult led activities
 - To develop shared enjoyment in group activities and joint attention with peers
 - To develop verbal (sign) and non-verbal communication including key vocabulary and repeated phrases in routines
 - To have fun in highly motivating activities and ***‘offer an irresistible invitation to learn’*** [Gina Davis]

Targets.....

- OT
 - To develop use of both hands together and develop tool use
 - Develop skills of using one hand while supporting with the other
 - Positioning tools correctly in one hand
- Physiotherapy
 - To develop good seating positions
 - To develop skills to cross the midline
 - To encourage bilateral activities

How we work

- The SLT attention group has been running as a therapy package through the year.
- This term we have joined together in the group.
- SLT continues to plan and lead the group
- Physio and OT targets are incorporated through suggested activities and discussion prior to or following groups
- Physio and OT support the children during the session to demonstrate skills (eg positioning) and encourage skill development (passing from 1 hand to the other)

Groups



Attention group



Attention group – video

Pros

- Working together has supported the children's skill development and improved outcomes
- Therapists have a better understanding and appreciation of each other's aims.
- We can support progress and generalisation of skills for the children and also development of our own skills through a holistic approach
- We support the nursery staff as we can look at how to progress towards targets combined in familiar activities and how to promote these skills across the day
- Opportunities for MDT meetings with the SENCO

Areas to address

- Lots of adults in the group
- We need to ensure that the nursery staff are included in the group to be able to replicate techniques and strategies
- Can be difficult for nursery to manage with all professionals in on one day – difficult for regular nursery routines as we are trying to fit in therapy
- Need to ensure that one skill doesn't adversely affect another (eg aiming to encourage turning looking and reaching from one side may detract from attention to the activity) – this needs discussion, understanding and respect for each others priorities
- At the moment the group is appropriate priority. This may change with the needs of the children when other goals such as toileting, equipment or other gross motor skills become a higher priority for OT or physio, or if the children's language skills change so that these children are not best seen together

Questions???

- Thank you for watching.....

