

Support for Living Library – Book reviews by Graham Firth

Access to Communication:

Developing the Basics of Communication for People with Severe Learning Difficulties

by Melanie Nind and Dave Hewett (2nd edition, 2005) David Fulton.

Melanie Nind and Dave Hewitt are the pioneers of *Intensive Interaction* and the leading experts in the field. This, their first book, sets out a clear conceptual framework for understanding *Intensive Interaction*. The book also addresses the wider theoretical issues that are important in developing a rounded understanding of the approach, whilst giving practical advice on how to do *Intensive Interaction*. Also covered are some wider issues related to approach adoption, with 10 short case studies included as illustrations.

"If you only read one book about people with learning difficulties this year, read this one... [it] offers a hugely rich and detailed analysis of practice. The pages are full of illustrative case studies and descriptions of interactive sequences... You need either to locate a copy of this book, or go out and buy it for yourself. This book will surely reward you with new insights into the people with whom you work and your interactions with them." PMLD Link

Using Intensive Interaction with a Person with a Social or Communicative Impairment

by Graham Firth and Mark Barber (2010) JKP

From the publishers: *This easy-to-use guide steers readers through the practical application of the approach, showing how positive results can best be achieved. The authors explain clearly how to prepare for, carry out and reflect on the use of Intensive Interaction with a client or family member. A multitude of key questions are addressed, including finding the right setting, evaluating progress and disengaging effectively at the end of a session. In the final section they consider some of the wider implications of the approach, such as developing confidence as a practitioner and incorporating Intensive Interaction into long-term care or educational planning.*

This practical and accessible book is a useful resource for speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, special school or further education teachers, social care professionals and anyone else caring for or working with people with social or communicative impairments. It will also be useful to practitioners already using the approach.

Promoting social interaction for individuals with communicative impairments: 'making contact'

edited by Suzanne Zeedyk (2008) JKP

This book looks at a wide range of approaches to nurturing communicative abilities in both children and adults who have some type of communicative impairment, including deafblindness, autism, profound learning disabilities and dementia. Exploring intensive interaction, co-creative communication, sensory integration and music therapy, this wide perspective provides insight into what it feels like to struggle with a communicative impairment, and how professionals and carers need to find creative ways of establishing communication...

The book is aimed at health and social work professionals, psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors, speech and language therapists, as well as researchers, teachers, and students in these fields.