JOINING THE DOTS: SOCIAL COMPETENCE AND HEARING LOSS

“We are hardwired to connect with others, it’s what gives purpose and meaning to our lives.”
Brené Brown

There are ever increasing options and solutions offered by hearing technology. There are more ways to connect wirelessly than ever before. Watching teenagers’ seamlessly streaming music and phone calls to their hearing technology. Young children using TV streamers so that their favourite television programmes is at a level perfect for their hearing loss.

However there is still no magic adaptor for making and keeping friends. No magic software to interpret the thoughts and feelings of those around us to help us learn how to socially problem solve and multi task. Talk to parents and they will tell you, technology is wonderful and clear speech and academic success for their children with hearing loss is important. But what they really want to know is whether their child is happy, communicating well with peers and thriving socially.

Our Joining the Dots training courses address how we as professionals can support these vital skills for thinking socially. With specific courses for early years, primary school and teenagers.
JOINING THE DOTS: SOCIAL COMPETENCE AND HEARING LOSS IN THE EARLY YEARS

We can all recall the positive feelings we get from being with people who make us laugh, listen to our troubles and help solve life problems. Whether we are 4 or 44 years old we need the skills to know how belong in these groups, share ideas and make friends. For most children it is a natural process. But is this always true for our children with hearing loss? Research would suggest not. Are we confident in recognising the strengths in young deaf children that promote these early social relationships? Are we considering all the building blocks that need more support?

This course will be looking at a range of hands on, practical approaches and ideas for growing social competence and learning how to take other people’s perspectives.

JOINING THE DOTS: DEVELOPING THEORY OF MIND AT PRIMARY SCHOOL - KNOWING ME KNOWING YOU!

Understanding what theory of mind is and why it is important is has become a hot topic for working with deaf children. This course focuses on the primary age years, with a brief overview of what theory of mind is and then into the resources, activities and ways that it can be encouraged, including how to be effective at thinking socially. It explores how children's ability to know, guess, think and feel about the world and people around them impacts on building friendships as well as accessing the curriculum.

JOINING THE DOTS: SOCIAL COMPETENCE AND HEARING LOSS IN THE TEENS YEARS

‘What teenagers want most is social rewards, especially the respect of their peers’ Alison Gopnik

Whether it’s connecting on Snapchat or Instagram likes, teenager’s sense of self and well being is neurologically programmed to need to belong to a peer group who accept and value them. It causes pain when this connection absent. We listen to the stories of teenagers with hearing loss and will share research into why this is not always happening.

Leave this course more confident to recognise the complex skills our teenagers with hearing loss need to thrive socially. There will be a focus on how the language we use, along with our actions affects what people think, imagine and feel about us and what we can do about it. There will be lots of time to problem solve and share resources you currently use to grow social competence with a range of deaf teenagers. We will be sharing the ASSETS programme as developed by Imagine IF, which forms the basis of our TEF Teens curriculum.

FOR BOOKINGS OR MORE INFORMATION

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