

Symbiosis - Adaptation

Socio-emotional development level equivalent to 0-6 months of age

Adapting Therapeutic Approaches and Environments

Interacting with Clients

- Caregivers should be especially sensitive and try to establish a bond with clients before feeding them, washing them etc.
- Interaction with clients arises naturally when attending to their basic needs (feeding, bathing etc.)
- Clients generally need repeated periods (15-30 min.) of extensive physical contact (hugging, holding etc.) and sensory stimulation throughout the day

Adjusting Settings and Demands to the Needs of Clients /Therapeutic Approaches

- Align daily schedules with clients' basic needs (hygiene, nutrition, sleep etc.)
- Provide opportunities for clients to retreat to safe spaces and have quiet time by themselves to avoid sensory overload and overstimulation
- Use Snoezelen, baths, ball blankets, weighted vests and other methods of proprioceptive stimulation to promote wellbeing and a sense of security
- Verbal communication is generally not possible at this developmental level, since comprehension is very limited and bound to the immediate situation
- Recognize signs of discomfort and distress and avoid causes/triggers