

## Symbiosis - Adaptation

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

### *Typical Socio-Emotional Capacities*

- Perception is largely limited to bodily functions and the immediate environment
- Contact with caregivers arises when they attend to clients' basic needs
- Basic emotions (agitation, joy, fear) are associated with regulation of physiological processes
- Clients explore their bodies and immediate surroundings orally/using their proximal senses (taste, smell and touch)
- Physical sensations cannot be clearly distinguished from emotions (e.g. crying can be a sign of emotional distress or physical discomfort)

### *Typical Socio-Emotional Needs*

- Bonding through extensive physical contact
- Stimulation through physical contact/bonding with attachment figures
- Non-verbal communication
- Clients are dependent on caregivers to regulate environmental conditions and external stimuli
- Clients are preoccupied with physical sensations
- Clients require comprehensive care
- Clients need a stable spatial environment with familiar niches and opportunities for sensory stimulation

### *Examples of Typical Maladaptive Behaviour*

- There may be problems associated with physiological processes (e.g. sleeping, refusal to eat, regurgitation, constipation, persistent scratching or crying)
- Clients may engage in self-stimulation through stereotypical behaviour that can lead to self-injury
- Clients may become agitated and upset easily, which can lead to
  - temper tantrums
  - serious self-injuries
  - breaking/destroying objects