

# **Annual report from “The Nordic network on Tactile Linguality” to the Nordic leadership forum of deafblindness, spring 2020**

## **Members**

Jenny Näslund / Caroline Lindström (Sweden)

Nedelina Ivanova (Iceland)

Helle Buelund Selling / Bettina Kastrup Pedersen (Denmark)

Camilla Foote / Kari Schjøll Brede / Johanne Dybdahl Godö (Norway)

## **Network meetings in 2019:**

### **February 27<sup>th</sup> : Skype meeting**

- Overall planning for the course in November based on the book “Hvis du kan se det, kan du understøtte det”
- Putting together a poster suggestion and flyers for the poster presentation at the Dbl conference in Australia.

### **September 2-3<sup>rd</sup>: Meeting in Taastrup, Denmark**

- Detailed planning of the course in November
- Information and evaluation from the network’s poster presentation in Australia

### **November 22<sup>nd</sup> : Skype meeting**

- Evaluation of the course
- Planning activities in 2020

The purpose of the network is to find the core points in tactile linguality, in order to understand how the tactile modality is used when cdb people speak. More investigation on the concepts and what to look for is necessary to understand the tactile modality and find out how language develops through the tactile modality. More knowledge is needed to develop intervention that supports language development in the tactile modality. The network sees a need for being more specific about language in a tactile modality.

The network aims to spread the knowledge into the practitioner field to support language development among people with deafblindness. To achieve the purpose and overall aim for the network these tasks have been accomplished during 2019:

## **Activities 2019**

**January – June 2019: Translation of the new booklet to English. An editorial group for the booklet consists of Helle Buelund Selling, Kari Schjøll Brede and Maria Creutz.**

- The booklet describes concepts of tactile language to find core points and suggests interventions for the practical field. It has been a continuous work with the book during 2018 and the next step was to publish an English version.

### **May 21<sup>st</sup> Course about Tactile language in Island**

- Two members from our network were responsible for an educational day about communication and congenital deafblindness in Iceland in May. The educational day was held in connection with the leadership forum in 2019.
- The content of the day was both theoretical and practical and the participants were both professionals and family members.

### **August 13-16<sup>th</sup> Participating in 17<sup>th</sup> Deafblind International world conference, Australia**

- Our network was responsible for a poster presentation at the conference with the aim of spreading information and knowledge about the English version of the booklet. Participants from the network was informing people from all over the world about the booklet and handed out flyers about the booklet.
- Information about the booklet was also shared in a pre-conference August 12th held by the Communication network within Dbl.

### **September 25-27<sup>th</sup> Attending the Alumni network meeting in Groningen**

- The theme for the alumni network meeting was “Deafblind communication” and the content was very much based on the content in the new booklet. Two of the authors of the booklet was invited to Groningen to give lectures about the topic.
- The book was advertised for and handed out to the participants from different deafblind organisations in Europe.
- Two members from the network attended the alumni meeting and thereby cooperated with the alumnis. They also contributed by leading two of the video analyse sessions in the afternoon.

### **November 12-14<sup>th</sup> Course in Tactile Linguality, Eikholt, Norway**

- The first course in NVC's regi based on the new booklet was held in Eikholt, Norway
- The content of the course focused on knowledge about what is meant by a tactile language - and how it is possible to understand and support language development.
- Six authors of the booklet gave presentations at the course, which had six themes:
  - How and why are we putting on “the language glasses”?
  - Theoretical perspectives on tactile language
  - How to recognise bodily tactile expressions as language
  - Stimulating language development
  - Accessibility and praxis
  - From theory to practice

- Participants came from Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Faroe island. They were consultants/advisers, practitioners, and family member.

#### **September- December 2019 Writing an article about the book for Dbl Review**

- Three members of the network have been responsible of writing an article for the Magasine Dbl Review with the aim of spreading information of the new booklet.

#### **January - December 2019: Spreading information and knowledge through the Network's Facebookgroup "Nordisk Taktil sprogligheds gruppe"**

- A facebook group that was founded in 2011
- A channel to spread information and to reach professionals and families in different countries
- Now counting 99 participants

#### **Future plans:**

- Published article in the Magasine Dbl Review about the Booklet. It will probably appear in first issue 2020.
- A shared network day and cooperation with the network "Communicative relations" in Denmark. Discussions and thought about the future and consequences for the networks.
- A course in NVC's regi in Denmark. We had many participants for our course in Eikholt in November 2019. Therefore, we plan to hold the same course again.

#### **Next meetings:**

March 2020: Network meeting March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Shared network meeting with the network "Communicative relations" March 4<sup>th</sup>.

November 6th: Skype meeting

Norrköping, April 30 2020

Caroline Lindström, Mo Gård, Sweden.