

Annual report from the Nordic Network on Tactile language to the Nordic Leader Forum of Deafblindness, 2024

Coordinator:

Caroline Lindström, National Resource Centre for Deafblindness, Sweden.

Members:

Jessica Jägryd / Caroline Lindström (Sweden)

Helle Buelund Selling / Theresa Vede (Denmark)

Marit Irene Vie, Linda Henriksen (Norway)

Aim and purpose for the network:

- To find the core points in tactile language so that we can gain a better understanding of how people with congenital deafblindness use tactile modality to express themselves. More investigation on the concepts and what to look for is necessary to understand language development in a tactile modality.
- To develop intervention that supports language development in the tactile modality. We see a need to be more specific about language in a tactile modality and how adjustments can be made.

More knowledge is needed to develop intervention that supports language development in the tactile modality. The network aims to spread the knowledge into the practitioner field to support language development among people with deafblindness.

Meetings:

- Planning for a Nordic network seminar: Online meeting January 23rd, March 1st, April 12th. Two representatives from our network have participated in a working group
- Planning for a course in videoanalysis: Online meeting January 26th, March 15th, May 16th. Two representatives from our network have participated in a working group.
- Our network meetings:
 - April 3rd: Online meeting: Future plans.
 - August 21st: Online meeting: Planning for a network seminar in Malmö, Sweden
 - October 29th Online meeting: plans for our network's contribution at a Nordic network seminar
 - November 6th Meeting in Malmö: In connection with a Nordic network seminar

Activities (courses, publications, webinars, other):

To achieve the purpose and overall aim for the network these tasks have been accomplished during 2024.

- **Members**
In 2024, Marit Irene Vie left the network. We are still missing a replacement for her from Norway.
- **Course in Stockholm May 29-30th**

Our network arranged a course about video analysis from different perspectives. The course was held in cooperation with the Nordic network on Cognition in Relation to Congenital Deafblindness and on Communicative relation.

- **Nordic Network Seminar, November 6th - 8th 2024, Malmö Sweden**

Our network held a presentation about a historical perspective of the network describing the development of knowledge around the topic of tactile language. We also held a presentation/video analysis based on “the tactile circle”

- **Spreading information and knowledge through the Network’s Facebook group “Nordisk Taktil sprogligheds gruppe**

Our network started a Facebook group in 2011, currently 99 members. The group function as a channel to spread information and to reach professionals and families in different countries. It is also a channel where everyone can share with each other on the topic Tactile language.

Plans and activities for the future:

- Focus on developing the “Tactile circle” with a multimodal perspective. Develop "A tool" to use the language circle in video analysis. Or a guideline to be able to use the circle and the book in guidance.
- A long-term plan to make a publication or a series of webinars more practice-related with a focus on concrete examples.
- Write an article with a case study from a linguistic perspective.
- A seminar in Norway aimed at professionals working in the deafblind field.