

Annual report from “The Nordic network on Tactile Language” to the Nordic leadership forum of deafblindness. An overview over the process and work of the network in -2025.

Aim of the Network (2025–2029)

Since the network was established in 2014, knowledge has developed through shared experiences and examples of good practice from each participating country. New knowledge has been disseminated through case examples, articles, webinars, courses, a publication, and a model called The Tactile Language Circle. Our aim is to further develop this model and create guidelines for how it can be applied in practice.

Members of the Network

Jessica Jägryd / Caroline Lindström (Sweden)

Helle Buelund Selling / Anja Nielsen (Denmark)

Linda Henriksen / Anne Sofie Fjær Løvbrøtte (Norway)

Network Meetings in 2025

Online meeting, January 30: Ideas for activities for the coming year

Online meeting, April 1: Formulation of a new network application

Online meeting, August 26: Participation in the network meeting on communicative relations, including discussions about the possibility of arranging a joint course in video analysis

Meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden, October 29–30: Planning activities for the coming year

Activities in 2025

In 2025, the network focused on planning and prioritising activities for the coming years. A new application was submitted to the Nordic Leadership Forum, outlining the following planned activities:

- Further develop The Tactile Language Circle from a multimodal perspective
- Organise a seminar in Norway for professionals working in the deafblind field
- Develop guidelines for using the Circle and the book in supervision and guidance
- Create a long-term plan for a publication or a series of webinars with a stronger practical focus and concrete examples
- Write an article presenting a case study from a linguistic perspective

In 2025, work was initiated on two of these activities. The network submitted an abstract to the Nordic Conference in 2026 with the aim of organising a World Café. The theme of the World Café is to develop guidelines for supporting tactile language in congenital deafblindness. It will focus on co-

creating ideas, experiences, and reflections that can form the basis for practical guidelines to support tactile language in everyday practice. The compilation of ideas and reflections from the World Café will serve as a foundation for the network's continued work on guideline development.

The work of describing tactile language from a linguistic perspective has also begun, with early drafts of texts.

International Contribution and Collaboration

In 2021, the network began contributing to and collaborating with professionals internationally. This international collaboration developed because of the publication of the English version of the *book If You Can See It, You Can Support It* in 2019, followed by the English webinar series based on the book in 2021.

Since then, the Nordic and international activities of the network have developed in parallel. It is important for the network, and for the continued development of tactile language, to include perspectives from professionals outside Scandinavia. We have much to learn from one another.

This year, one of the network members was invited to the Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education to give a keynote presentation based on chapters from the *book If You Can See It, You Can Support It*.

Another member also participated in the TSVIB book study, contributing to monthly sessions based on the same book. Through this participation, the member gained valuable insight into the structure and content of their book study format, which may also be useful for future initiatives in the Nordic countries.

Membership Changes

In May 2025, the network expanded with an additional member from Norway when Anne Sofie Fjær Løvbrøtte joined the network.

Theresa Vede from Denmark left the network in November 2025, and Anja Nielsen became her replacement.

Norrköping, April 20, 2026

Caroline Lindström, National Resource Centre of Deafblindness, Sweden.