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Paul Madaule's presentation at the HIDC Conference

Toronto, March 30-31, 2017

Summary of the presentation: ***Listening Training: Preparing the Ground for Learning***

Paul's presentation of his work comes from the rather unique perspective of someone who experienced life with a severe learning disability (dyslexia) until his late adolescence and who recovered from it with the help of the very listening training program that he has been using for more than 40 years to help generations of children and adults with similar issues.

Listening is the ability to 'zoom in' on the sound information we need and leave out, or protect ourselves from the sounds that are unnecessary. Listening is at the root of skills such as auditory processing, phonological awareness, reading - both decoding and comprehension - focus, attention span as well as some aspects of sequencing and organizational skills.

The good news is listening can be improved by training through a non-intrusive and fun program which combines sound stimulation (mostly music) and audio-vocal feedback exercises. There is no age limit for improving listening but the earlier the better to prevent younger children from having to endure many of the consequences poor listening can have on their learning skills and social-emotional life.

Acting on the sensory system, listening training works from the ground up towards the higher functions of the brain. It sets the stage for making it easier and faster to process, retain and express knowledge. It also maximizes the efficacy of teaching and educational strategies which typically work from the top down.

This presentation will include a brief summary of the different steps of the listening training program: The Initial Assessment, the phases of the program which replicate the different stages of the development of listening from receptive to expressive, and the post program follow up procedure which involves progress reviews and daily reinforcement exercises. Short case study vignettes will help to illustrate the results typically obtained from the program.

Attached documents

The Listening Function

The Listening Checklist

The Reading Out Loud Exercise

Description of The Listening Centre's Services



Paul Madaule – Director

Born in France, Paul Madaule studied at the University of Paris-Sorbonne while training with Dr. Alfred Tomatis and graduated in psychology in 1972. After years practicing and teaching the Tomatis Listening Training work in Europe and South Africa, Paul came to Toronto, Canada in 1978 to found The Listening Centre.

Paul was involved in establishing Centres in the US and Mexico and he created *Listening Fitness with the LiFT®*, a portable audio-device and professional training course that provides the listening work to wider audiences.

Paul has written numerous articles on subjects related to the educational and therapeutic value of music, voice and Listening Training with children with developmental and learning problems. He also co-authored *About the Tomatis Method*. Paul's book *When Listening Comes Alive*, first published in 1993, has been translated in ten languages.

The application of the Listening Training program on children with autism is featured in the documentary film *The Child That You Do Have* (1994).

More recently, Norman Doidge MD, has written an engaging portrayal of Paul and a detailed explanation of his work at The Listening Centre in his book *The Brain's way of Healing* (2015).

Paul is currently the Director of The Listening Centre in Toronto.
(for more information, visit www.listeningcentre.com)