

Environmental Control Resources for the National Curriculum

Aim of Session

To introduce participants to a structured programme of key-stage resources developed by The Futch School. Activities suitable for pupils and students from pre-school to tertiary education are provided, along with additional activities for home use. Activities are designed to help develop Cause & Effect and Turn Taking skills. This session shows how environmental controls can be used as a fun and stimulating teaching aid within the national curriculum.

Summary of Key Points

- Introduction to implementing the Life Skills programme developed by The Futch School.
- Show how key skills in many different curriculum areas can be nurtured and developed.
- Explain how environmental controls are being used as a teaching tool.
- Provide examples of how the experience of using environmental control in the class room can assist with a transition of those skills into the home.
- Demonstrate how the programme is used in the classroom.
- Describe how resources provide a structure for lesson plans and record keeping.

The programme has shown, and continues to show, that environmental control can be used as a huge motivator for children with physical difficulties who also use VOCAs to communicate.

Participants will learn how the concept of the programme was chosen and the reasoning behind this. The programme consists of two key areas; Cause & Effect and Turn Taking. Each key area has five topics; door, stereo & radio, television, socket and telephone. Each topic five different stages of activity: pre-school, primary, secondary, tertiary and home. Each activity, where appropriate, has 4 levels of developmental exercises. These exercises contains age appropriate activities with clear teaching objectives, vocabulary and methodologies which are linked to the National Curriculum, pre-school or home, as well as the equipment needed to support each session.

Learning Outcomes for Participants

- Understand how environmental controls can be used in the classroom as a teaching aid.
- How by using a developed programme for environmental controls the experience can be linked into the home.
- Understand the structure of the programme developed by The Futch School and how and why it was developed.
- Understand the problems that can be encountered and how to overcome them
- Reveal how key skills in many different curriculum areas can be nurtured and developed.

Preferred format

- Platform Presentation (either ½ or 1 hour)

Level of Session

Intermediate session. Assumes participants have worked with AAC and ECS for a few years; session may have more discussion time than an introductory session.

Age Range / Topic

- Children
- Young Adults
- Primary/Secondary school transition
- Topic of interest to people who use AAC