

DEAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
2ND APRIL 2009

Theory of Mind impairment

- Difficulty in predicting others behaviour leading to fear and avoidance of others (preference for solitary activity)
- Difficulty in reading the intentions of other and understanding the motives behind the action (makes them vulnerable and at risk of teasing, bullying and being set-up)
- Difficulty in explaining own behaviour (can appear as if not taking responsibility) Difficulty in understanding emotions; their own and others, leading to a lack of empathy
- Difficulty in understanding that behaviour affected how others feel or think, leading to a lack of conscience or motivation to please
- Difficulty in taking into account what other people know or can be expected to know, leading to pedantic or incomprehensible language (either gives no background assuming the listener knows or gives great detail)
- Inability to read and react to the listeners level of interest in the topic
- Inability to anticipate what others might think of ones actions
- Inability to deceive or to understand deception
- Lack of understanding of social interaction leading to difficulties with turn taking, poor topic maintenance in conversation and inappropriate use of eye contact
- Difficulty in 'pretend' or differentiating fact from fiction

DEAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
2ND APRIL 2009

Implications for teachers

- Attention must be explicitly drawn to how new information affects the way in which the person understands the world; transferability of knowledge becomes a process that needs to be taught rather than assumed
- There will be a need to specifically teach the basic social skills of a new environment; transitioning from school to TAFE/university all the new social constructs may need to be taught (quiz at school V quiz at TAFE)
- Language level may not reflect communication level
- Instructions must be explicit (handing in assignments; your assignment must be finished by Friday)