

*Title and Code of Course:* **Video Home Training (VHT) / Video Interaction Guidance (VIT)**

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Credit Point Value:

**6**

Number of Lessons per Week:

**2**

Type of Course:

**Seminar**

Method of Evaluation:

**Active participation in lessons, in role-plays, microanalysis of a short film using basic methods of VHT / VIG.**

Course Description:

### ORIGINS

In the mid 80's, psychologist Harrie Biemans, and a team of colleagues from the Netherlands were searching for more effective approaches to child welfare practice. They became inspired by the work of ethologist Colwyn Trevarthen at Edinburgh University, who was studying successful interactions between infants and their mothers. He found that the mother's responsiveness to her baby's initiatives developed intersubjectivity, or their shared understanding, which is the basis of all effective communication, interaction and learning.

Biemans further developed these communication principles through video recordings of interactions and video feedback to achieve success with a group of youth in a residential facility in the Netherlands. The methodology has evolved from an application specifically geared to direct service to families, Video Home Training (VHT), to a second application for all other settings, Video Interaction Guidance (VIG).

**THE BASIC CONTACT PRINCIPLES** Biemans recognized that the communication principles described by Trevarthen were reflected in the patterns of communication of well-functioning parents and child-care workers. Based on these observations, Biemans and his colleagues developed a schematic ladder of communication skills that they call "the Basic Contact Principles". These principles are based on structures found in natural mother-infant communication and fall into four hierarchical clusters of skills that underlie any effective communication.

### VIDEO HOME TRAINING

Video Home Training (VHT) is an innovative method we teach to social workers working directly with families. Participants learn to use direct videotaped observation, detailed analysis of interaction and strengths-based feedback and coaching to strengthen families.

Video Home Training focuses on supporting parents in developing the qualities of responsive nurturing of their children that will support optimal learning and healthy social, emotional and cognitive development.

### VIDEO INTERACTION GUIDANCE

Video Interaction Guidance (VIG) provides similar strengths-based support for staff, practitioners,

managers and supervisors in a variety of non-family settings, including classrooms, child, youth and family services, social service and child welfare agencies, foster care, and group homes.

Both methods are based on the understanding that warm, responsive, nurturing interactions are the key to healthy family life, and that the same experience underlies good practice in education and human service professions as well.

(<http://www.spinusa.org/approach.htm#video>)

## TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES ON COURSE

- Introductions
- Rules, expectations, motivations
- Origins of Videotraining
- Basic Contact Principles
- Theoretical background of videotraining
- Basic contact principles in theory and on films
- Process of VHT/VIG
- How does VHT/VIG work?
- Why VHT/VIG effective?
- Basic Values in VHT/VIG (Strength based, on-side approach)
- Signals of Successful Communication
- The Trajectoryplan
- Indications and Contraindications
- Videotraining in several settings: working with families, in schools, in child protection, etc.
- Role play/participants making films in small groups
- Analysing participants' films
- Using the contact principles
  - Making a good film
  - Selecting the right moments
  - Feedback (viewing the film with parents and discussing basic communication)
- The trajectoryplan
- Training and Supervision of Videotrainers
- Ethical questions concerning videotraining
- Possibilities and difficulties in using videotraining in a new setting
- Feedback

**Bibliography:**

Hilary Kennedy, Miriam Landor, Liz Todd (2012): Video Interaction Guidance. A Relation-Based Intervention to Promote Attunement, Emphaty and Wellbeing. Jessica Kingsley Publisers, London, Philadelphia, Sydney, Vancouver