

# THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CLINIC FOR AUTISM OF THE ASL 16 OF MONDOVÌ (ITALY) METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF INTERVENTION.

We present the aims and the methodology of the Clinic For Autism of the Health Unit 16 of Mondovì, in Italy. The aims of the Clinic are: information and training; research; clinical and rehabilitative intervention.

The Clinic has in charge 27 individuals with Autism or PDD: 17 live in the area of the Clinic, 10 come from other areas. The Clinic is part of the "Servizio Neuropsichiatria Infantile", that has in charge around 160 handicapped individuals (0-18 years). The inhabitants of the area are 88000 (0-18 years: 15000)

## AIMS AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES OF THE CLINIC

### 1. Information And Training

- Management and updating of Internet Site on autism [Http://www.alihandicap.org/ali](http://www.alihandicap.org/ali)
- Project I.S.A. (Informazioni Sindromi Autistiche)
- Publication of Internet Site and cd-rom containing principal sites on autism
- Organisation of training courses and lectures on autism

### 2. Research

- Project "The Child Who Comes Back From The Moon"

#### Aims

Survey on specific needs of Families of Children with Autism

#### Community Interventions

1. Home
2. School
3. Leisure

### 3. Clinical And Rehabilitative Intervention

#### 3.a Assessment And Diagnostic Phase At The Clinic

- Consultation of child psychiatrist
- Interview with parents
- Observation and evaluation of autistic behaviour:
  - Use of rating scales (A.B.C., E.C.A., C.A.R.S.)
- Observation of social interaction: use of one way mirror
  - Observation of interaction parent-child
  - Observation of play and spontaneous communication in structured and unstructured environment
- Assessment of cognitive and social skills:
  - Use of Portage Check List, PEP/r, E.F.C.
- Use of ICD-10 criteria for diagnosis
- *Other medical evaluations are done at specialized Child Hospitals*

#### 3.b Intervention Phase

- Interview with Parents and description of the disturb
- Intervention strategies for resident children:
  - Counselling to teachers
  - Neuro-psychiatric counselling
  - Psychological counselling to Parents
  - Activation of network interventions (for leisure time)
  - Periodical updating of clinical assessment
  - Direct intervention with child on:
    - Social interaction: A.E.R.C of Zappella, psychomotricity
    - Social and cognitive abilities: Portage Method, TEACCH
    - Communication: TEACCH, AAC, Speech Therapy
- Non resident children are re-addressed to territorial services and are periodically monitored and evaluated.