

# 2023 International Conference on

# MULTI-SENSORY ENVIRONMENTS

AT VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

**September 28 - 30**

✦ **Overview** ✦

**DAY 1 - for newer kids on the block!**

**Thursday, September 28th: 9 am - 4:45pm (CST)**

**MSE BASIC TRAINING WORKSHOP: Foundational Concepts & Applications**

If you are new to the world of MSE or need a review, this day is for you! This workshop will cover the basics of multi-sensory environments and will include live demonstrations of MSE tools.

**DAY 2**

**Friday, September 29th: 9 am - 5 pm (CST)**

**Morning Keynotes:**

- The History of MSE
- The Human Sensory Brain
- MSE in Pediatric Intensive Care
- Homemade MSE Materials & Sensory Garden

**Afternoon Breakout Workshops:**

- **Session 1 (choose one)**
  - Vibroacoustic Therapy in MSE
  - MSE in Psychotherapy
- **Session 2 (choose one)**
  - Education of Skilled Workers
  - Sensory Tombola

**DAY 3**

**Saturday, September 30th: 9 am - 5 pm (CST)**

**Morning Keynotes:**

- Future of MSE
- Syncing Sensory Activities with Individual Processing Levels
- Multi-Sensory Delivery Rooms
- Developing Meaningful Goals in MSE

**Afternoon Breakout Workshops:**

- **Session 1 (choose one)**
  - Creative Movement in MSE
  - Therapy Dogs in MSE
- **Session 2 (choose one)**
  - Applying Principles of Design for MSE Room
  - Breaking Social Isolation in MSE



Register online at <https://www.valpo.edu/education/isna-mse/>

Register for a single day of the conference, or receive a discount when you register for multiple days.

**One-day Registration: \$99; Two-day Registration: \$189;  
Three-day Registration: \$279**

**Student discount available!**

# Thursday, September 28, 2023

## What in the World is "MSE"?

### Valparaiso University Center for the Arts, University Theater

#### 9 am - 4:45pm /central time

Hi!



**Robin Krassow, PTA**

HELLO!



**Chris Kiser, COTA**

## MSE BASIC TRAINING

### multi-sensory environments



**Karen Pool**  
Director, TFH USA Ltd.



**Anthony M. McCrovitz, Ph.D.**  
Director, Quality of Life Institute



**Ad Verheul**

Co founder Snoezelen-MSE Senior consultant; Global Leader in MSE Development



**Kaela Millar**  
MSE Lab Tech, Mohawk College



**Maurits Eijgendaal**  
President, ISNA-MSE

✦ **New to MSE or need a review? This workshop day is for YOU!** ✦

**MSE BASIC TRAINING WORKSHOP: Foundational Concepts & Applications**

### Schedule:

**8:30 am - Registration Check-in**

**(9:00 - 9:45) 1 The Snoezelen-MSE Story (Ad Verheul)**

The Origin, Philosophy and Background of Snoezelen-MSE, and how therapists and other professionals integrate state-of-the-art Snoezelen™ applications into their practice; quality-of-life outcomes and developmental benefits (social-emotional) result from Snoezelen-MSE practices.

*[5-minute break]*

**(9:50 - 10:35) 2 The Senses (Robin Krassow & Christine Kiser)**

Everything we experience, around us and within us, is going through our senses and being processed by our brain. We talk about the different senses and the impact these senses have on our growth, well-being and development.

*[5-minute break]*

**(10:40 - 11:20) 3 Using Color and Sound (Maurits Eijgendaal)**

The use of colors in learning or multi-sensory environments can evoke emotions and influence one's perception and/or experience. Discovering your child's "rainbow" and learning how to apply thoughtful uses of these colors, enriches their space beyond mere functionality. Colors create an invitation for the (social) engaging-emotional self. Sound is around us all the time. Mostly we are not even realizing what we are hearing and how our body, senses and brain react.

# DAY 1 continued: MSE BASIC TRAINING WORKSHOP: Foundational Concepts & Applications

## **(11:25 - 12:10) 4 8 Favorable Factors for Sensory Room MSE Application (Kaela Millar & Anthony McCrovitz)**

A checklist of foundational factors that influence the sensory room atmosphere and approaches for supporting how one is able to experience the environment most beneficially.

*[LUNCH until 1:00]*

## **(1:00 - 1:45) 5 Framework of Gentle Teaching (Anthony McCrovitz)**

Learn about navigating the sensory system with a framework of Gentle Teaching, and how to teach one to name, tame, and befriend their emotions (regulate their sensory connections) to self-regulate. A Snoezelen™-MSE room can teach about self-regulation and benefit others by improving focus, attention, and memory, expanding one's awareness and understanding about their own feelings and about the feelings of others, and by developing a positive mindset. As an individual learns new ways to cultivate a positive mindset, they prime their brain and body's capacity for learning and for building healthy relationships.

## **(1:45 - 2:30) 6 Creating Meaningful Moments (Anthony McCrovitz)**

An unconditional invitation within this space supports the relationship in moving toward the discovering of possibilities for one's social-emotional development. We will look at how we can facilitate one's social-emotional experience and engagement by creating meaningful moments, using our hands, eyes, words, and presence (our tools).

*[5-minute break]*

## **(2:35 - 3:20) 7 The Active Relationship (Maurits Eijgendaal)**

The theory and practice of the active relationship that guides discovery and learning within the didactic triangle, working towards quality of life outcomes. These outcomes not only provide the needed structure, level of engagement, ability to challenge, and nurturing; mentoring a spirit of gentleness creates "breathing room" or "growing room" for cultivating intrinsic curiosity and a sense of wonder through the collaboration of learning and growing together.

## **(3:20 - 4:05) 8 How to Create Meaningful Assessments (Robin Krassow & Christine Kiser)**

There are important things to understand about the sensory room that will help you in creating meaningful assessments with the individuals you serve. Incorporating a holistic approach in assessing one's quality of life to create meaning and value in and outside of the sensory room to enhance one's sense of companionship and community. An assessment provides a foundation for developing a treatment plan that can be utilized by others for building and expanding one's quality of life with treatment goals that support one's social emotional development.

*[5-minute break]*

## **(4:10 - 4:45) 9 Purposeful MSE Equipment and Design (Karen Pool & Kaela Millar)**

Illustrating the purpose and placement of equipment in a Multi Sensory Environment to create a meaningful environment that supports awareness and growth, both in and outside of the room, plus a case study that will help illustrate how equipment is used in practical and meaningful ways.



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For all questions about  
this conference  
please contact:

[Emma.Kelley@valpo.edu](mailto:Emma.Kelley@valpo.edu)

**Friday, September 29 & Saturday, September 30**

**Valparaiso University, Harre Union**

**9 am - 5 pm (CT)**

# **CREATING MEANINGFUL MOMENTS**

## **IN THE MSE**

**with KEYNOTES by:**



**Maurits Eijgendaal**  
President, ISNA-MSE



**Ad Verheul**

Co-founder Snoezelen-MSE Senior consultant;  
Global Leader in MSE Development



**Anthony M. McCrovitz, Ph.D.**  
Director, Quality of Life Institute

## **CONFERENCE DAY 2 ~ Speaker Presentations**

**Friday, September 29**

**8:15 - 9:00: Registration Check-in & Light Refreshments**

**9:00 - 9:45: KEYNOTE Part 1: History of Snoezelen-MSE, from concept to world community campfire (Ad Verheul)**

As only Ad Verheul can tell, being one of the first to explore, research, develop, and name a new therapeutic approach involving sensory principles and applications. Hear about the multi-disciplinary, therapeutic origin, philosophy, and development of Snoezelen-MSE, and how it grew and continues to evolve today. The International Snoezelen-MSE Association has members in nearly 50 countries, and research contacts with 22 universities worldwide.

**9:45-11:00: KEYNOTE Part 2: Inviting relaxation and communication in the Snoezelen-MSE by understanding functions of the senses with aspects of the human sensory brain (Maurits Eijgendaal)**

Inviting relaxation and communication in the Snoezelen-MSE by understanding functions of the senses with aspects of the human sensory brain... How the brain functions helps us communicate with the world around us through a complex network of sensory systems. When the brain receives information from the environment through the sensory organs (eyes, ears, nose, tongue, and skin: sight, sound, smell, taste and physical contact); how is sense experience processed? Once received by our specialized senses, the brain works with neurons, and many electrical and chemical signals, channelling the experience to the different sections of the brain.

## **11:00 -11:15: BREAK**

### **11:15-12:05: Snoezelen-MSE in the pediatric intensive care unit of Auckland, NZ (Sara Moore)**

Sarah is a hospital play specialist at Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand. Her presentation discusses how Snoezelen has been provided to children in the pediatric intensive care unit. Sarah's presentation will include a range of practical, cultural, and environmental considerations and adaptations that need to be made when planning and providing Snoezelen experiences in the intensive care hospital environment. Responses from patients and families will also be discussed.

### **12:05 -12:45: Homemade Snoezelen-MSE Materials and Sensory Garden (Ad Verheul)**

## **12:45 - 1:30: LUNCH (served in the Ballroom)**

### **1:30 - 3:00: Discovering Vibroacoustic Therapy within the multi-sensory environment (Christine Kiser & Robin Krassow)**

The earth has a resonance frequency of 7.83 Hz, known as the Schumann frequency. Humans have a resonance frequency of 9-16 Hz. Various organs have frequencies of 4-200Hz. All living things have frequency. Frequencies can include light, sound and electromagnetic waves. We first experience sound in the womb as it is the first sense developed. Sound can have a positive or negative impact on our bodies. Thus sound has been used for healing and higher consciousness from as far as we can track throughout history by way of music and chanting. The research and science behind VAT will be presented, along with the therapeutic applications of VAT within multi-sensory environments.

### **1:30 - 3:00: Snoezelen-MSE in Psychotherapy (Svenja Fuhrmann)**

This interactive self-awareness workshop offers the participants the opportunity to get to know Snoezelen in the context of psychotherapeutic work with adolescents and young adults.

## **3:00 -3:15: BREAK**

### **3:15- 4:45: Education of Skilled Workers (Iben Falgren & Rikke Aggeboe)**

This presentation will focus on the Danish Snoezelen consultant education and the finishing projects we as former students worked on. We will describe the education, the aim, the target group, the goals and the study construction - the timespan, the study groups and the evaluation criteria during the whole education and the final project. We will describe our own project that focused on the effects that COVID isolation had on us all. We looked into different aspects of under- and over sensory stimulation. What was the quality of life? What were your living conditions, did you live alone or had a house full of children. Our starting point was the Danish health authority's recommendations on how to maintain a psychological health during COVID. We call the project "Everyday Snoezelen" and discuss how you could work with Snoezelen in your own home environment.

### **3:15- 4:45: Sensory Tombola (Michel Th  roux)**

During holidays, we organize leisure activities for our clients. We dance, sing, play and eat. Generally, the plays are abilities one adapted to our clients. Why not replace those plays by sensory experience? That is we done at Riv  re-des-Prairies hospital, based on Snoezelen-MSE. The social room is planned in sensory sections. One part is specialized for touch, one for sight, one for smell, one for hearing, and another for taste. I will show the equipment and applications for sensory stimulations we use for this, followed by participation by attendees who can try to identify some sensory activities each of them can use with their clients. It can be very funny!

## **4:45: CLOSING (Ballroom)**

# CONFERENCE DAY 3 ~ Speaker Presentations

## Saturday, September 30

**8:15 - 9:00: Registration Check-in & Light Refreshments**

**9:00 - 9:45: KEYNOTE Part 1: Future of Snoezelen-MSE, imagination to infinity (Ad Verheul)**

**9:45-11:00: KEYNOTE Part 2: Syncing Sensory Activities with individual processing levels, utilizing breath work, relaxation, research, and pre-frontal lobe assessments (Anthony McCrovitz)**

Current research on breath work and relaxation combine with pre-frontal lobe assessment for an understanding of the executive functioning of the brain and how it experiences and processes multi-sensory connections; how neuro transmitters affect brain architecture and development (construct or collapse); uncover the potential and possibility with the person, for improved focus and planning, for accelerating the social-emotional learning processes, and for supporting collaborative goals.

**11:00 -11:15: BREAK**

**11:15-12:05: Multisensory Delivery Rooms & Neonatal Care (Hanne Holmer)**

How physical environments are changing for parents and staff at the maternity wards in Denmark (presentation and case).

**12:05 -12:45: Developing Meaningful Goals for a Group in Snoezelen-MSE (Ad Verheul)**

How we can contribute to one's social-emotional experience and development with group meaningful moments. Virtual visits to the Snoezelen complex at the Centre De Hartenberg and other Snoezelen-MSE rooms; the first approach in different institutes; Video impressions of different goal groups and Snoezelen.

**12:45 - 1:30: LUNCH (served in the Ballroom)**

**1:30 - 3:00: Creative Movement for People with Dementia in the Snoezelen-MSE (Fernand Bruneau)**

Creative Movement is about mutuality, interaction, integrating movement, gesture, music, imagination as a vehicle of "being with". Creative movement has the potential to involve all of the components of occupational performance: motor, sensory, cognitive, social, and emotional. The activity is pleasurable, motivating and used to promote overall health through relaxation and movement.

**1:30 - 3:00: Integration of Animal-Assisted Activities Within the Multi-Sensory Environment (Kaela Millar)**

Working with 'therapy dogs' is introduced as a 4th element of the didactic triangle. MSE Lab therapist shares the story of her work at Mohawk College that uses a therapy dog within its MSE room as a unique, complementary tool to help enhance one's sensory experience and provide them with even more meaning and value

**3:00 -3:15: BREAK**

**3:15- 4:45: Applying Principles of Design for an MSE Room (Ad Verheul, Maurits Eijendaal, Tony McCrovitz, Karen Pool)**

Applying Principles of Design for an MSE Room; understanding the basic principles of room design & the mse process to create a meaningful environment that supports awareness and growth, both in and outside of the room experience.

**3:15- 4:45: Breaking Social Isolation for Persons with Advanced Dementia (Ger Schuivens)**

CRDL [Cradle] is an interactive instrument that enables a new form of non-verbal communication. It utilizes the novel ability to translate interpersonal touch into sound, encouraging physical contact between people. CRDL helps to break the barrier of social isolation for people who normally experience difficulty in communication or social interaction with their loved ones, such as people suffering from dementia, autism, mental disabilities or visual impairment. CRDL is manufactured and distributed internationally since 2017 by CRDLT BV and is currently in daily use in over 1.500 care-home locations in Europe and Canada/USA. CRDL received wide acclaim in The Netherlands when it was awarded the National Care Innovation Prize in 2018 and was an Innovation Award Winner, Category Digital Health at CES 2023 in Las Vegas/USA.

**4:45: CLOSING (Ballroom)**

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