

What Professionals Have to Say About HANDLE®

“The HANDLE Introductory Course changed my thinking about human functioning by bringing me back to the basics. My biggest revelation in the course related to the level at which one initiates intervention. What I had learned as a Speech Pathologist to be the basic levels at which to begin a speech program for intervention purposes was actually far above where many of my clients needed to start. These children were struggling with unintegrated reflexes, poor vestibular systems, sensory processing deficits, and deficits I can’t begin to recognize with my current level of training. Many had never mastered the suck, swallow, breath pattern and I was asking them to coordinate complex muscular movements with their lips, tongue, and jaw. For my language students, I was asking them to think about language when their brain hadn’t developed efficient pathways on which to relay basic non-language related information. What an eye opener!” *Aimee Hedrick, Speech and Language Pathologist*

“Before I learned about HANDLE I did not realize how much our neurodevelopment affects our personality and habits. How well we learn, what our interests are, whether we are fearless or timid, neat or disorganized is intricately connected to how we process sensory information. I learned the importance of Gentle Enhancement, which advocates respect for each individual’s perceptions and his or her tolerance for stimulation.

I have witnessed the benefits of HANDLE activities for my clients. Perhaps most dramatic was the case of a little girl who came to me at the age of 4 years, 10 months. She was tongue-tied at birth, and all of her milestones were severely delayed. The tongue tie was only discovered at age 4 when she was referred to a speech therapist because she spoke only a few 2-word utterances and her articulation was very poor. Her most pressing problem was severe auditory and visual sensitivity. An airplane flying overhead would cause her to lose bowel and/or bladder control. A bird fluttering its wings on a window ledge or lights flickering due to voltage fluctuation would put her in a state of fright and flight response. This happened multiple times every day. The Crazy Straw activity changed all of that. Now sights and sounds may distract her occasionally, but the fear is completely gone. An added benefit of the Crazy Straw activity was better bowel and bladder control because the intense sucking strengthened the sphincter muscles throughout her body. *Andrea Perry, owner, Strategies for Learning, a center for children with neurodevelopmental and sensory processing disorders, Certified HANDLE Screener*

“I was filled with joy to learn of this effective approach that so honored the client and helped with such gentle action. Since I had been observing the behaviors of so many autistic and developmentally delayed children, the explanations of the meaning to those behaviors made perfect sense to me. To now see these behaviors as telling us what the weakness is in the nervous system and to be able to design a program of activities to gently restore strength, was one of the greatest revelations I have experienced.” *Jill Ann Robinson, paraprofessional teaching assistant*

“The HANDLE Introductory Course has connected so many pieces of the puzzle together in my head as to how important the sensory-motor system related to behaviors, physical function, learning, emotional health and relationships, food choices and diet, musculoskeletal problems, vision, etc. I imagine the list could be endless. I now realize that a person’s life can be completely organized around the state of their sensory-motor system and with that understanding I have more compassion as well as want to give them hope.” *Lori Hagood, Physical Therapist, CHT, Certified HANDLE Screener*

“I have been intrigued by HANDLE since my son started seeing a HANDLE practitioner in 2006, when he was 3 years old. I was impressed with how Marianne seemed to really understand him and his behavior and quirks, in a way that felt so accurate according to my motherly instincts. I looked forward to the appointments for many reasons: the activities seemed to help my son a lot, and I also learned a lot from Marianne, by example and by asking lots of questions, that supported my parenting, especially how to interpret and respond to some of my son's behaviors. ... I would sit and observe my son's appointments and wish that I could just sit there all day with her and observe all the kids that came through her office!

I have a passion for holistic health, healing and well-being and I really appreciate how HANDLE looks deeply and non-judgmentally at people. The Level 1&2 course deepened my understanding of the brain and sensory systems and of the way the activities work to enhance and support these systems.” *Rebecca Leach, Waldorf teacher, Certified HANDLE Screener*

“The family I currently care for have three children with multiple learning issues. After I took the HANDLE Level 1 and 2 class last year so much of the twins’ behavior became clear. The changes it led to in dealing with the boys helped convince the family to find a local (HANDLE) therapist. The five year old twin boys are now in the care of Susanna Reynolds¹ here in the Seattle area. ... We see occupational therapists, physical therapists, vision therapists and the HANDLE therapist.

I have been the one doing most of the daily hands on HANDLE activity work with the boys since we began seeing Susanna. Watching the progress they have made once the HANDLE therapies were added has amazed myself and the other therapists working with ___ and ___. Being such a hands-on part of this change has changed me as well. ... I used to see the brain as something fixed in stone by a certain age. I looked at behaviors as being much more about conscious choice than reflex/brain-driven responses. HANDLE has fundamentally changed the way I now view people and that will continue to evolve for the rest of my life. I now have a much better understanding of how radically different someone’s way of literally processing this world can be.” *Wendy, Montessori teacher, Nanny*

Regarding a woman who had a stroke so severe she was not expected to live: HANDLE intervention was started within 24 hours. This is the comment of a physician, four days after her stroke, in relation to what HANDLE had done for her.

“Never, in a thousand years, would I have believed that she could do what she is doing today!”

Mark May, MD

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