



Online support for parents of children with congenital deafblindness

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Summary: In the Netherlands, the University of Groningen and Royal Dutch Kentalis have collaborated for many years in developing effective programs to enhance the competences of communication partners of individuals with congenital deafblindness (CDB). These programs, such as Contact and the High Quality Communication intervention, were originally developed to be used by coaches during face-to-face interactions with communication partners. Parents also want to take part in these programs, however often find this difficult, due to travelling distances between their homes and the Kentalis facilities. To involve parents of individuals with CDB in the PhD project “Tell it”, we decided to offer them online coaching. When the COVID-19 pandemic started, the need for online coaching of parents suddenly became urgent, because their children were not able to visit the Kentalis facilities any more. In this presentation we will show examples of using online teaching and coaching of parents of children with CDB. We will discuss what is needed for online coaching and teaching of parents and how video-analysis can be included. We will also discuss how we can ensure that online support of parents remains part of the programs provided to both children as well as adults with CDB.