









De Draad (“The wire”): a metaphor for working on emotional development with parents and caregivers.

In special needs education, developmental psychology has always been of great importance when working in situations characterized by educational or developmental problems.

STAGE 1 adaptation		TRACK GATE ACTION-REACTION JOINT ATTENTION Drawing the wire: REGULATION 1
STAGE 2 First Socialisation		REFUELING CIRKLING The wire is attached 2
		Pass on the wire A supporting LOOP 3
STAGE 3 Individuation		SELF wants to draw the wire EXPLORATION 4
STAGE 4 Identification		The wire becomes REMOTE CONTROL Rules Others Environment 5
STAGE 5 Reality awareness		THINKING ABOUT ME AND THE OTHERS 6
		The wire becomes a NETWORK 7
		THE RED THREAD The red wire. 8
gerritvignero@gmail.com The wire ©		

Inspired by the work of Cluckers, Vliegen, Heijkoop, and Došen (amongst others), developmental psychology has been translated using the metaphor of *De Draad* (“The wire”). Explaining the social and emotional development in a comprehensive and practical manner, the project aims at facilitating the interaction between children/clients and parents/teachers/caregivers. The model is linked to the application of the recently developed SEO-R² (cf. presentation 1).

The different stages of emotional development, as elaborated by Došen, are illustrated using different types of wires. Each wire has its own characteristics relating to both the child and the parent. Concepts used in educational psychology, such as joint attention, attachment, emotional refueling and exploration are integrated in the model. In addition, new concepts are introduced (i.e., “the track, the gate, the remote control, the network”). Since the impact of the earliest phase in a child’s life is of crucial importance for the further stages of his or her development, the main focus is directed on what is called the first wire: “drawing the wire”.

The model was initially developed for facilitating the support of persons with intellectual disabilities. However, implementation of the model demonstrated its applicability in different types of educational and counseling situations.

De Draad represents the bond between parents and children which is growing and evolving during the different stages of life. While, at first, the parent (literally) takes the child by the

hand, later on, parents help their children to learn to go on without the ever-present guiding and protecting hand. Moreover, when dealing with everyday parenting problems, falling back at earlier stages of the wire can help to find a solution.

Education or support can become challenging due to different interacting child-, parent- and environment-related aspects. The wires get tangled and parents or caregivers are confronted with difficult educational questions. When education or counseling leads to tension and uncertainty, the wire may be “under pressure” and one should look for the vulnerable spot in the wire as a reference for guidance. Parents, teachers and counselors should connect their wires to this fragile point in order to support the child. When the parent of guardian does not take into account these fragile pieces of the wire, there is a risk that the social-emotional development of child is over-estimated.

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