

Youth Pioneering therapy for children with developmental difficulties

Parent and teachers of children from Donegal with developmental difficulties are invited to attend a free public seminar on how auditory processing affects learning, to be held in the Red Cow Moran Hotel, Naas Rd, Dublin 22. The keynote speaker on the topic of 'Learning and auditory processing - how auditory processing impacts developmental delay' will be world renowned Valeric Dejean, an occupational therapist with 15 years experience in pediatrics and the first Occupational Therapist in the world to use the Tomatis Method. The talk will discuss the benefits of the Tomatis method, which has been used as a therapy for children with Autism, Attention Difficulties (ADD/ADHD), Asperger Syndrome, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Speech and Language Difficulties and Specific Learning Difficulties. Valeric Dejean, who trained in Paris with Dr Alfred Tomatis, and Pascal Maher, Psychologist, Tomatis Consultant and Clinical Director of the Cluas Centre in Tallaght, Dublin 24 (the only Tomatis centre in Ireland working with children) are two practitioners of the Tomatis Method and will

be presenting the talk on the benefits of this therapy. Many children with developmental delays have an underlying auditory processing difficulty - in other words they do not process sound information in the same way as their peers. This difference in auditory processing can have a profound impact on speech and language. If they do not hear language as other children do, children may develop language difficulties. Auditory Processing can also impact on how children read, causing difficulties in attaching the particular sound to its correct letter. Auditory Processing also impacts on how children interact socially and on how they pay attention, especially if they are not able to filter out the sounds that they don't need. The Tomatis method works by retraining the ear to work to its full potential and allowing correct auditory processing to develop. The result of this is an increase in all neurological development and the benefits can be far reaching. So far over 300 children in Ireland have benefited

greatly from the Tomatis Method at Cluas. Pascal Maher, clinical director at Cluas comments: "Every child is unique in the way he or she develops, and their development usually follows an expected pattern. Sometimes this pattern is delayed. The range of the delay can vary greatly. Good learners have selective ears: they can easily distinguish between various frequencies. Many poor learners have difficulties with this and can not easily filter out irrelevant information, which may later result in the difficulties associated with Speech and Language Difficulties, Aspergers Syndrome, ADD / ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Autistic Spectrum Disorders, PDD, Auditory Processing Difficulties, or Central Auditory Processing Disorder. The Tomatis Method is used world wide to help children with these developmental difficulties". For further information and to book a free place at the talk, please contact the Cluas Centre on (01)4940210, or e-mail: pascal@cluas.ie