

The Framework of *Gentle Teaching & Multi-Sensory Environments*

*Developing & Maintaining
Meaningful Relationships*



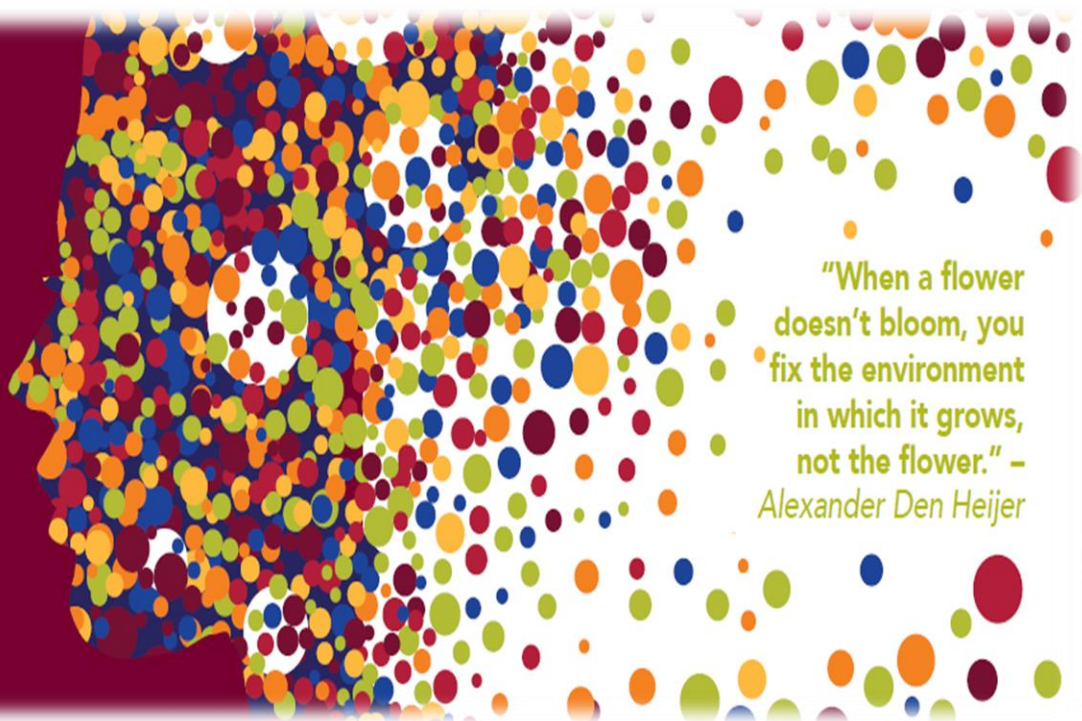
The Philosophy of the Multi-Sensory Lab:

Multi-Sensory Lab

Recreational, Therapeutic, Educational

Based on person-centered approaches, the Multi-Sensory Lab offers pathways to connect with others by focusing on an individual's strengths, abilities and talents and using these as motivation to bring about change.

To book this space, please call 905-575-1212 Ext 3836



*"When a flower
doesn't bloom, you
fix the environment
in which it grows,
not the flower." –
Alexander Den Heijer*

Mohawk College's MSE Lab & Community Living Burlington ARIE Study

Video created by Mohawk College's Video Broadcasting students:

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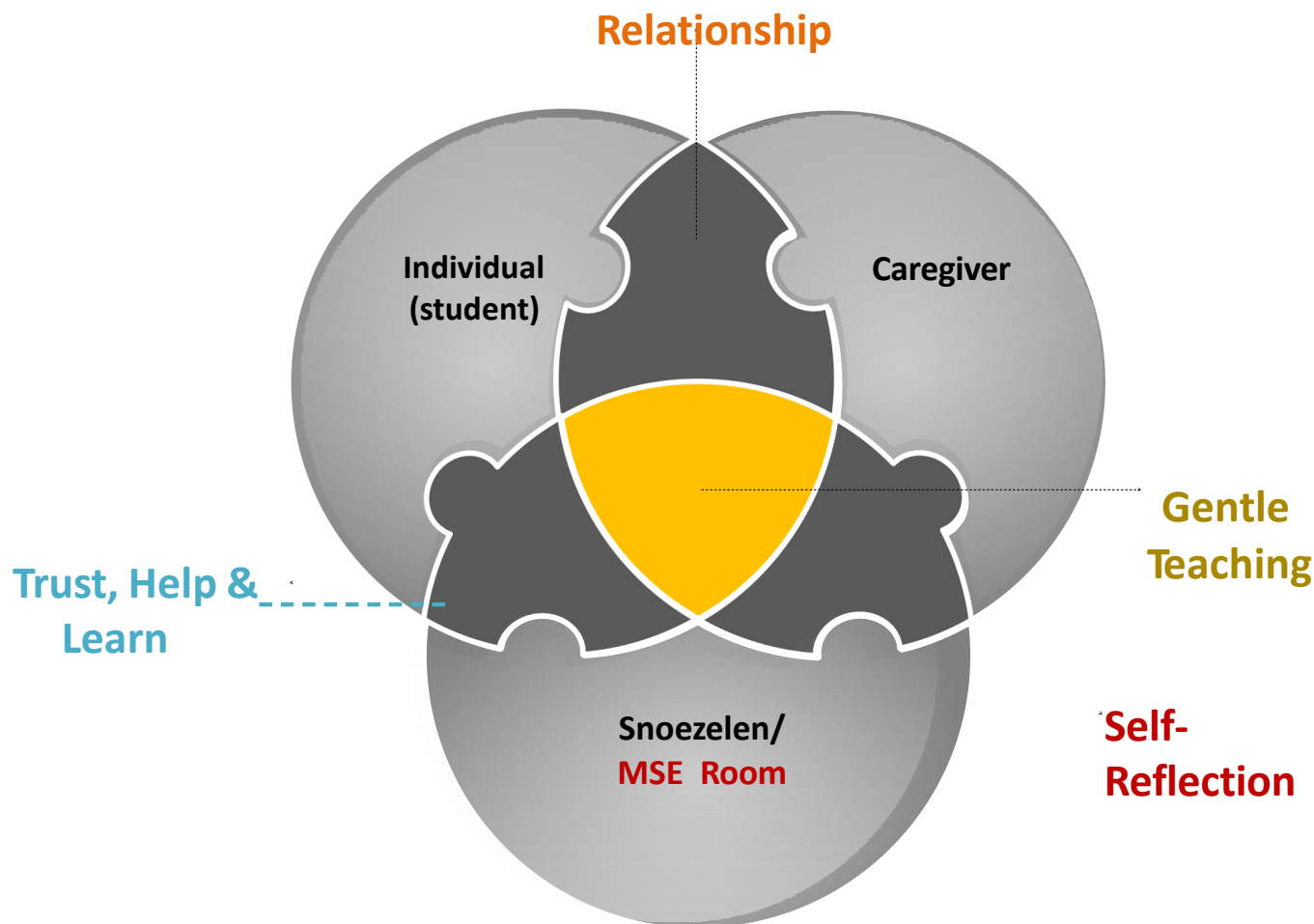
Gentle Teaching Framework:

- **4 Pillars**

- Safe
- Valued
- Valuing
- Engaged

- **4 tools:**

- Hands
- Eyes
- Words
- Presence



(McCrovitz, 2016).

Pillar 1: **feeling SAFE**

The Teachable: *"I am somebody!"*

(McGee, n.d., p.23).



Pillar 2: feeling VALUED

The Teachable: *"...when I am with you, I do not fear. But, much more. I know that I am good. I am somebody because I am connected to you!"*

(McGee, n.d., p.25)



(From left) Gizmo, Lab Technologist Kaela Millar, Luke Millar and his mom Heather relax in the first lab of its kind at an Ontario college.

MULTI-SENSORY LAB

"We'd be here every day, all day if we could. Our son Luke has autism and developmental delays. He was no longer eligible for most programs and services when he turned 18 years old. So it's been a challenge to find suitable places for Luke. We'd been going to an out-of-town multi-sensory room that we had to share with other families. A caseworker suggested we check out the multi-sensory lab at Mohawk. It's our son's happy place. Luke loves going there. We get the room to ourselves. Lab

"IT'S OUR SON'S HAPPY PLACE."

technologist Kaela Millar does a fantastic job of picking up on Luke's verbal cues and helps him settle down. Kaela's not related to us but she's like family. Luke explored every inch of the lab which is a good sign. It shows he's comfortable there. Luke is calm and relaxed after our sessions at Mohawk and we all get a good sleep for one night a week. The lab puts a smile on Luke's face and that puts a smile on our faces too."

— Proud Parent Heather Millar



Pillar 3: being able to **VALUE** another

The Teachable: *“human interdependence”*

(McGee, n.d., p. 27).



Pillar 4: **HUMAN ENGAGEMENT**

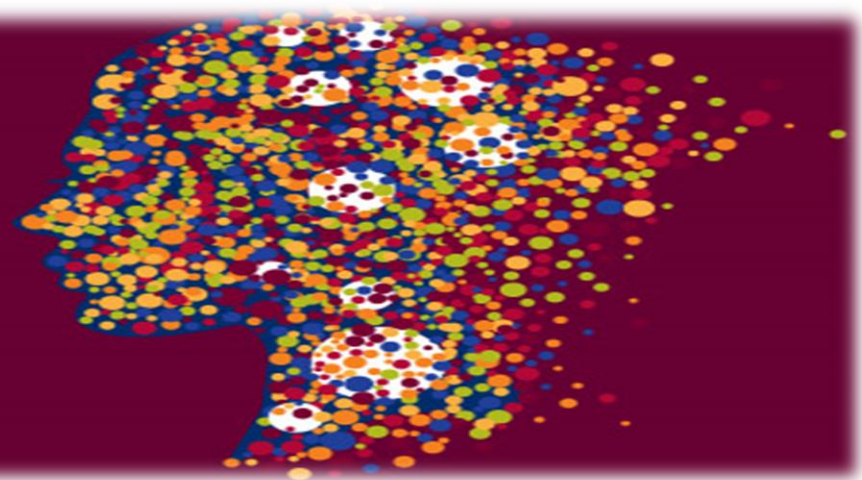
The Teachable: “*building a feeling of companionship and community*”

(McGee, n.d., p.28)



Multi-Sensory Lab

Recreational | Therapeutic | Educational



Currently, the MSE Lab is used:

- by surrounding community agencies and individuals with disabilities
- in conjunction with other therapeutic practices
- as a training tool for students enrolled in various Community, Justice & Liberal Studies as well as Health Studies programs

Let's take a look at the latest trend... creation of Sensory Lounges for students to use

[Adelphi University's sensory room provides a safe space for students with autism](#)

(Dowd, 2018, 2:05)



(Finkelstein, 2018)

References:

Dowd, C. [FiOS1]. (2016, Jan 23). *Adelphi University's sensory room provides a safe space for students with autism*. [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.fios1news.com/longisland/local-adelphi-universitys-sensory-room-provides-a-safe-space-for-students-with-autism#.WrKeGmrwacM>

Finkelstein, D. (Photographer). (2018, Jan 30). *Sean Culkin, of Rockville Centre, in the sensory room of the Bridges to Adelphi Program in the university's Earle Hall on Jan. 30, 2018*. [digital image]. Retrieved from <https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/autism-adelphi-university-autism-speaks-1.16506266>

McCrovitz, A. (2016). *Creating a sense of companionship and community: the active relationship component*. [workshop].

McGee, J. (n.d.). *Mending broken hearts: a handbook for those who care for and about others*.