



Neurodiversity

Strategies we can adopt when applying the Halliwick Concept **Speaker: Dawn Moore - Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy, UK**

Introduction

Over the past few decades, the nature of disabilities that swimmers and people in general present with has changed. Halliwick swimming clubs report that swimmers with disabilities associated with Neurodiversity now far outnumber other swimmers.

The skills of the Halliwick Concept remain at the centre of water activities. Instructors, however, need help to understand how swimmers present and need to develop a wide variety of strategies to facilitate the swimmers' skill acquisition and progression.

The objectives of this presentation

- To introduce resources for Halliwick Instructors that will enable them to better understand the needs of our evolving Neurodiverse society within the water.
- To enable Instructors to provide effective, safe and enjoyable sessions for all by adapting the skills of the Halliwick Concept.

Content of presentation

Two videos

The first illustrates the sensory overload experienced by an autistic person as she walks to the pool and then the calming effect of entering the water.

The second shows an adaptive swimming session for a person with complex disabilities including Dysphagia.

A talk informed by experience both personal and from a wide variety of friends and colleagues:

This will explain how Halliwick skills can be used and adapted for swimmers with various disabilities. There will be emphasis on recognising that what works well for one swimmer may be entirely ineffective for another.

A handout - A chapter from the Book by Donna Williams

This explains various perspectives from a range of children with the same diagnosed disability who have completely different presentations.

An interactive session follows the presentation

The handout will be prior learning for the audience and will form a basis for discussion. There will be more videos illustrating swimmers' activities, also aimed at promoting discussion. Members of the audience will be invited to share their experiences.