

# *How the pedagogical model works in Italy*

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**STRENGTHS**  
**and**  
**WEAKNESSES**

# STRENGTHS

The reduction of the asymmetry in the relationship between the operator and the disabled person: the data have been analysed through the operator's feelings.

Focus the attention on the dynamic dimension of the relationship.

The possibility to be trained in meetings with operators of the social field and focus groups with colleagues.

The knowledge acquired on the educational style.

The sharing of the pedagogical model with other members of the staff.

The reduction of stress and burnout.

The awareness to need a psychological supervision between the member of the staff.

Focus on the real needs of disabled persons (also in very serious pathological conditions): their dreams and desires = recognition of their potential skills and happiness.

Having meeting with other associations and groups working with disabled persons (also in very serious conditions) and using different educational instruments and models to share ideas, feelings and perspectives.



# WEAKNESSES

The difficulty to propose a clear definition of “seriousness” and to define a specific target of the model.

The requirement of trainings to teach the operators how to deal in the most serious situations.

The very short time to fill in the protocol and the great amount of work for the operator.

The model is very theoretical and uses only few practical instruments.

The trail has been too short.

# EXPERIENCES

## The model helped me in finding a true educational relationship with Down Syndrome person

I tested the INV model with a boy with severe Down Syndrome. It was difficult to communicate with him, because usually he was not answering my questions. Many times I felt really discouraged, but I never did a proper in-depth analysis of the problem. Then, I started writing the self-observation tool describing initially only the problematic events, and then also the positive events. I understood that the model was helping me to look at the events in a different way and serenely accept the educational relation between me and the boy I was dealing with.

The self-observation tool was not easy to fill in, since it required a lot of time. However, I think that I will hereafter use it in the most difficult situations when dealing with people with severe disability.

**AND  
FINALLY...**

# From the diary of an operator

*When I first met you, you didn't look at me and ran away...*

*When I first met you, you lived in symbiosis with your mother.*

*Any attempt of approach was useless and it was very frustrating for me. Everyday I lost some hope and started feeling more and more frustrated and unable to make you trust me.*

*One day I thought that you needed your own time and your own space because too many people had coldly interfered in your life taking care of you and nothing else.*

*But one day you surprised me! You opened the door and let me come into your world.*



*Slowly you let me know you and I learnt how to read your thought, your emotion, your gaze, your silence through your body language. We went through difficult moments, when you refused me without any comprehensive reason or when your silences were like walls between you and me.*

*But we also spent happy moments when we rejoiced for our little achievement.*

*Sometimes it was as if you empathize with me because your behavior reflected my emotions. If I was sad you were sad too, if I was angry you were angry too and if I was happy your eyes shone with joy and it was fantastic.*



*I learnt a lot from my experience...*

*It is important to respect the pace and the feelings of other person:  
you don't have to stress to force a relationship instead you should  
give yourself without reserve;*

*I learnt that if I feel my emotions I can live the relationship more  
consciously;*

*I learnt that if I don't have any expectation, every goals is a success  
and the failures are not disappointing;*

*I learnt to accept my limits because trying to overcame them is an  
opportunity to change and improve myself and the relationship;*

*I learnt to trust you because you trusted me unexpectedly.*

## In Conclusion:

*The Pedagogical model made me aware of my emotions and I never denied or modified them, I tool them as a treasure to keep and value, because they are part of me and they helped me to know myself and to create a better and purposeful relationship.*

*The emotions condition us every day and in every moments, they condition our thought and our behavior and it's important understand them for reflect to the person and for touch the relationship.*

*In my opinion the pedagogical model should a part of the worker because it is most important for emphasize the worker's emotions and his interior world, they are very important things often underrated.*



**Thanks for  
your attention**