

Pediatric PT and OT Services

The Offices of Rosemary White, OTR



DIR Floortime Summer Camp

**Overview of DIR Summer Camp –
The Philosophy & the Support
Provided for Campers to Engage
in Social Interaction with Peers**

Goal of the Camp

- **Our goal is for the campers to have fun and to develop play skills in rich interactions with peers.**
- **Each camper is supported in a way to enable him or her to feel comfortable and successful in the ebb and flow of play with his/her peers.**

DIR Floortime

has developed through
understanding the rhythm of
interaction in relationships during
development.....

We bring this into our interactions
in camp with the campers.

Philosophy of the Camp

- The philosophy of the camp is to **embrace DIR® Floortime** model of treatment.
- DIR/Floortime focuses on supporting **social interactions that are "sensitive" or "tailored" to each individual child.**
- The goal is for the child to be **able relate to others, sustain engagement and stay in a "back and forth flow" of interaction.**
- The outcome is that the children develop **successful social interaction with peers.**

WHY DO CHILDREN PLAY?

WHY DO WE PLAY?

**WHY DO WE PLAY WITH
CHILDREN?**

Why do children play????

- To connect with others
- To discover their body and how it works
- To discover the world and how interact with people and objects
- To feel power physically and emotionally
- To solve problems
- To explore how other children do things
- To play out life experiences, pretending to be someone significant in their life
- To play out fantasy
- To explore emotions – joy, happiness, fear, jealousy, anger, competition
- To find solutions to emotionally charged feelings and events
- To explore and have power over impulses (red light, green light; what time is it mister bear)
- To feel the joy of peers - sharing ideas and collaborating with one another
- To share their ideas with others
- To learn how to play in groups with expectations from other, following physically and emotionally

Play
is the foundation for learning
& for
successful interactions
throughout life

Children Develop Through Relationships.....

- The sensitive interaction of the parent supports an infant to become calm, interested in the parent and to take in what is going on around him.
- The sensitive response of the caregiver to the infant sets the stage for the infant to have the desire to interact & to “woo” everyone to interact with him?
- The infant begins to understand gestures of the parent in interactions and use his gestures to communicate his needs and interests. The gestures then become sounds and then language.

In camp we bring these same aspects of development into our interactions with campers.

The Developmental Approach We Embrace in Summer Camp...

Supports a child's ability to take in the sights, sounds, and action of the world around them – what they see, hear, smell & the emotion the child feels from his own body and those who interact with him.

Supports sharing of attention

- **Initially we join the child, focusing our attention and interest on what the child is attending to.....**
- **As the interactions develop the child becomes aware of what we may be adding to what he is attending to.....**
- **To engage with others in the rhythm of a back & forth flow.**

Think about how the Affect Supports the Child's Developmental Levels...

- Is he calm, organized & attentive?
- Is he taking in what is going on around him?
- Is the child regulated during interactions?

Think about how the Affect Supports the Child's Developmental Levels...

- Is he able to engage with others & “woo” them to interact?
- Is he respond when other “woo” him?
- Comment on the child's back-&-forth engagement. What is his range of affect?
- Is he warm & related? Does he have that “gleam in the eye” as he references the other person?

Children Develop Through Relationships.....

- This rhythm of interaction in relationships with significant others creates social interactions that show that the child is thinking about himself and also about others.

In camp we bring these same aspects of development into our interactions with campers.

Think about how the Affect Supports the Child's Developmental Levels...

- Does the child show his ideas?
- Does the child show ideas through his gestures, facial expression, visual gaze, actions, vocalizations and/or words and language?
- Does the child respond to the ideas and actions of others?
- Does the child engage in a number of purposeful, back & forth interactions in a row (circles of communication)?

Children Develop Through Relationships.....

- Through interactions over the course of development a child develops a sense of his body and how it works. This leads to him being able to think & plan how to move, how to get what he want and to solve problems with his body and actions.

In camp we bring these same aspects of development into our interactions with campers.

Think about how the Affect Supports the Child's Developmental Levels...

- Who is doing the leading when problem solving or deciding what comes next?
- Is the child's sense of self evident?
- Does the child show pride in his accomplishments/sharing of idea?

Children Develop Through Relationships.....

- Through interactions over the course of development as the child develops a sense of his body and how it works he will also explore

In camp we bring these same aspects of development into our interactions with campers.

Think about how the Affect Supports the Child's Developmental Levels...

- Does the child read the social cues from peers and adults?
- Is the child able to “put on the brakes?” (Impulse control)

Key Considerations
It is not just what you do
But
How you do it

Affect comes from a variety of avenues from each and every individual...

- It is the tone of voice
- The gesture that you use
- The rhythm and pacing of your voice and action
- The sigh that conveys frustration
- The jump or squeal that conveys “joy”, “fear”, “surprise”, “excitement”.....

Type of Affect, Emotional & Cognitive that Supports a Child to Join & Stay in an Interaction.....

- **Visual**

- **Auditory**

- **Gesture** - Body Movement; Facial Expression; Hand Gesture

- **Sensorimotor** – Physical Movement in the Interaction ; Touch ; Support Surface

- **Pacing**

- **Communication** –

- **Emotional Tone - Emotional Range**

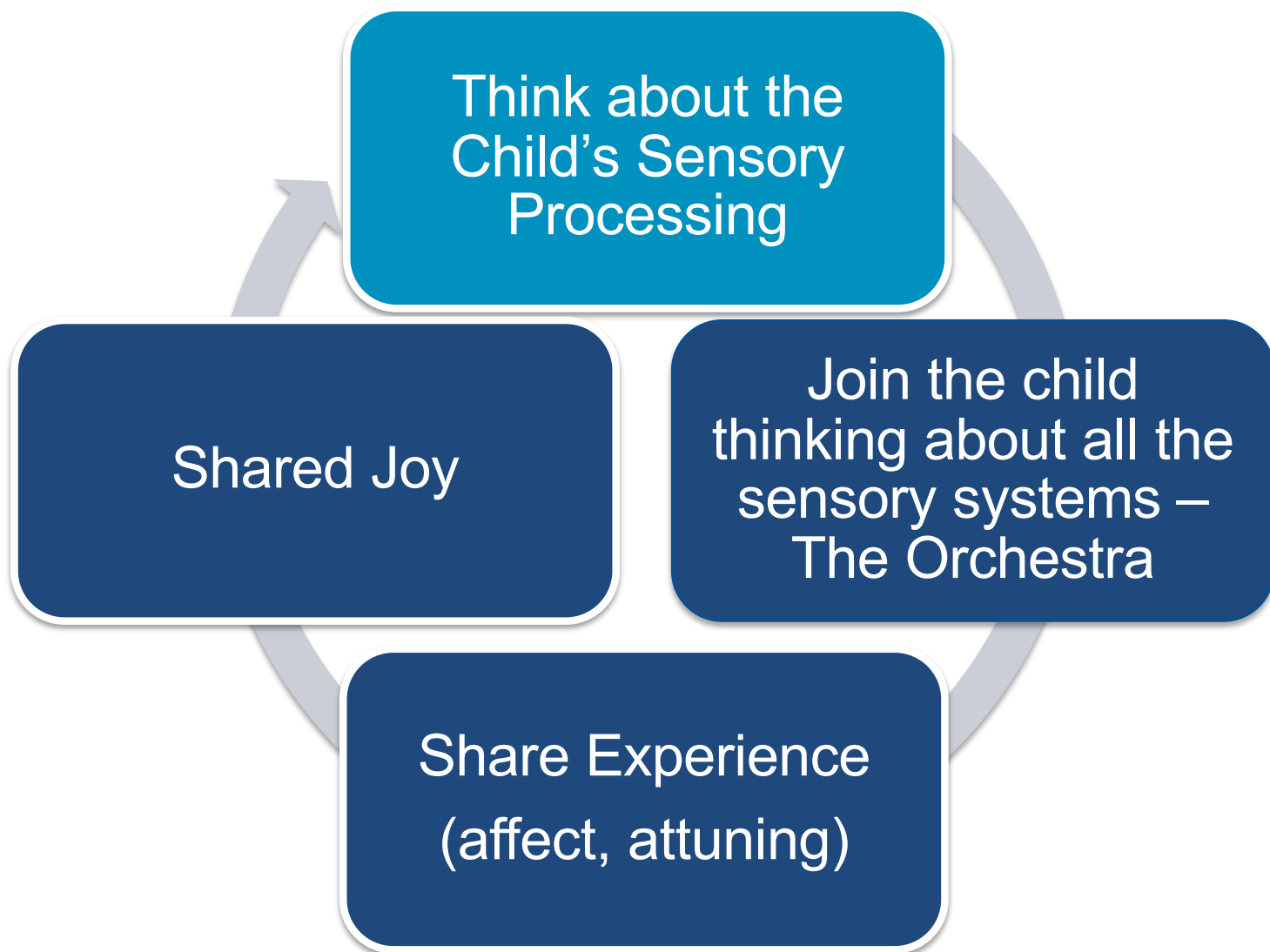
Reminders that we emphasize in Camp for the Players.....

- Big affect does not mean to be too loud.. Think in the moment what engages the child - “fish....”
- Support to get the creativity of the children.
- As pretend play emerges think about how you can support sharing of attention and attuning to others ideas.
- Apex of the triangle is really
The player who is really just reflecting back the ideas of the other children for clarification and understanding. Don't push too high..... Be comfortable being an emotional and responsive player...

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS IN CAMP

The “Developmental Focus” of DIR

- **Take in the sights and sounds of the world to shared attention with others....**
- **Engage with peers, responding to one another**
- **Understanding and supporting the unique individual profile of the child while in the group**
- **Gluing/connecting the group of children**
- **Supporting children to stay in a long continuous flow of interaction**
- **Shared Problem Solving & conflict resolution**



Free Resource

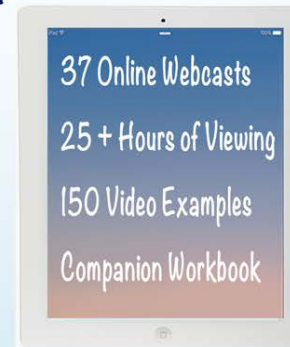
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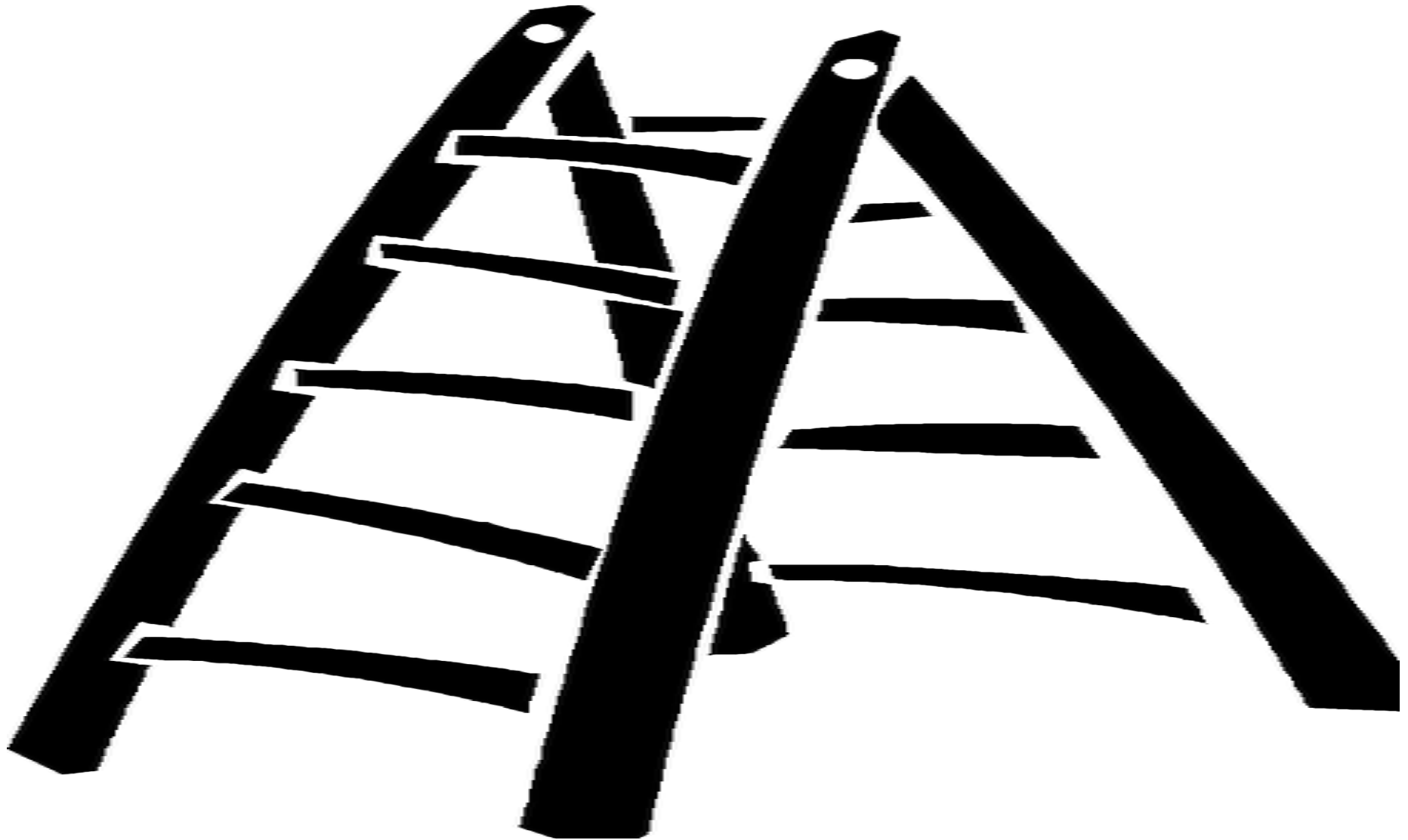
Learn how to engage, play and interact
with your child

16 Key Strategies for
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The Journey Continues as We Climb Higher the Ladder



Key Considerations
It is not just what you do
But
How you do it

**ABOVE ALL
HAVE
FUN!!!!**