

Lindamood Visualizing and Verbalizing for Language Comprehension and Thinking

On March 2nd and 3rd, 2011, Margaret Alexander and I had the opportunity to attend the Lindamood Visualizing and Verbalizing for Language Comprehension and Thinking (V/V) workshop at the Westin in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We were fortunate to attend with a small group of teachers.

Fortunate, firstly because the room was so small it couldn't hold more than 10 attendees and fortunate secondly because we had lots of personal attention to our many questions!

Many SLPs have attended this workshop over many years. I was thrilled to finally attend. The focus of the workshop is to help students who have weak concept imagery skills. These are the children who do not understand what they read, have difficulty following directions, difficulty connecting to conversations and difficulty with critical thinking skills. They are often unable to express their ideas in an organized manner. Their reduced imagery skills result in the students not getting the 'whole' picture.

The V/V program is a sequential series of steps that can be conducted with groups or individual students. The students learn to describe pictures with organized and detailed language so that the clinician can 'picture the picture'. The student is given a list of ConceptWords to facilitate description/imaging in every imaging activity.

After successful picture description ('picture to picture') the students will use these descriptive imaging skills to make detailed images of words, sentences, paragraphs and then multiple paragraphs in their own minds. Felt squares are used to mark words, sentences, and paragraphs so that the student has a visual key for organizing their images. A series of HOTS (higher order thinking skills) questions are asked/discussed following paragraphs to develop critical thinking skills.

Since the completion of the workshop I have begun to use the V/V program with 4 students. All 4 students are enjoying the program and are making gains. I plan to continue to use the V/V program to supplement my work wherever possible. It's nice to have a new tool in the therapy basket!

Kelly Bradley