

## **The Efficacy of the "Soundbeam" as a Means to Nonverbal Expression**

By Ya'ara Haspel, Director of the "Hosen" Adult Day Center  
Israel Elwyn, Haifa Branch

Come To Your Senses:  
Creating Supportive Environments to Nurture the Sensory Capital Within  
Toronto, Canada October 21-25, 2009

The Hosen Adult Day Center operates an intervention method using an instrument called the "soundbeam". The Center, run by Israel Elwyn, is a rehabilitation day program for adults aged 21 and up, with physical and intellectual disabilities, and who require extensive support in A.D.L. functions.

The "Soundbeam" translates movement into sound using ultrasonic light beams. Even the slightest physical movement made is translated into sounds produced by a synthesizer and heard throughout the room.

The goal is to stimulate all the sensory systems of the body in order to find ways of expression, calming and nonverbal communication.

The ease of using "Soundbeam," which is controlled by the movements of the individual, creates a feeling of great strength in people with severe disabilities and enables them to control their environment, to create and to communicate with people around them with the music created and stimulated by their reactions – improved movement function.

Goals:

- Improving the range of attentiveness and concentration
- Creating a correcting experience, thus strengthening the individual's self confidence
- Interaction among the members of a group, thus widening their range of social interactions
- Developing expression and communication skills by enabling enhanced control
- Developing motivation and inner calmness
- Developing enhanced physical skills

This lecture will present the case of Yossi (an alias), aged 36, who has significant physical and intellectual disabilities and who uses a wheelchair and is fed via a gastric tube.

During the intervention, he listens and concentrates on the music that he creates with his body. At the end of the process he shows less spasticity and is more relaxed. Yossi creates movement and used his body by his own choice and initiative. Some of the movements he makes during the activity have not been seen in him in other situations.