Orthofunction: The Primary Goal of Conductive Education

The primary goal of Conductive Education is to develop the child's personality - to develop an "orthofunctional personality". That is, to teach the child the ability to cope, to adapt to new situations and to be spontaneous.

Essentially, it is about developing a "can do" attitude - an active, problem solving approach and an adaptable, flexible nature in order to cope with the daily challenges of every day life - from walking, dressing, eating and personal care to communicating, exploring the environment and engaging with activities and resources across all areas of learning and development.

The key to success and independence is to instil in the child both a desire and an expectation to exert independence.

Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in Conductive Education programmes so that they can help their children transfer the skills they are learning into their daily routine. By using the principles of Conductive Education across the whole day, the "can do" approach becomes a way of life for the whole family. The child's confidence, desire and ability to be active, independent, problem solving learners will grow and grow.

What is the Conductive Education Centre of Western Australia?

The Conductive Education Centre of Western Australia (CECWA) was established as an incorporated association in 2006. As a notforprofit charitable organisation CECWA Inc has gift recipient tax deductible status.

CECWA Inc seeks to ensure Conductive Education programmes are available to all those individuals with motor disorders and their families who desire access to this unique form of intervention.

CECWA seeks to fulfill these aims by raising public, corporate, Government and political awareness of Conductive Education and raising funds to support the ongoing growth and development of Conductive Education programmes in WA.

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Conductive Education
CENTRE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Exploring Possibilities, Achieving Abilities

Conductive Education:

A unique, holistic educational system for children with motor difficulties (physical disability) and associated special needs.

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What is Conductive Education?

Conductive Education (CE) is a unique system of special education and rehabilitation specifically developed for children and adults who have motor disorders and allied difficulties of a neurological origin such as Cerebral Palsy. CE was developed by Dr. Andras Peto and his colleagues at the International Peto Institute, in Budapest, Hungary.

Conductive Education views motor disorders as a potential learning disability due to the effect such problems can have on a child's ability to explore and interact with their environment independently and spontaneously.

Conductive Education sees the child as a whole, recognising that each area of development impacts on the next. Physical skills, play skills, communication, social interaction, exploration and self care skills are all developed within a fully integrated programme, planned and led by specially trained Teacher-Conductors.

What are the features of a CE classroom?

- The ***group*** and its ***dynamics*** provide a motivating and supportive learning environment where students learn from and alongside peers.
- The ***integrated programme/daily routine*** is structured to meet each child's needs within the group. It provides consistency, continuity, and reinforcement through opportunities to transfer skills across the day.
- The ***Task Series*** is a unique teaching tool used in Conductive Education. It is a series of tasks designed to develop children's ability to control their movements to change place and position in a purposeful way, whilst learning transferable problem solving and communication skills through age appropriate play and conceptual activities. The Task Series provides the framework for delivering a balanced curriculum.
- ***Rhythmic Intention*** is a specialist strategy used in Conductive Education whereby speech, language and song assist children to learn to regulate their movements.

What CE programmes are available in WA?

A variety of CE services have been supported to grow and develop in WA by the efforts of CECWA Inc. Programmes have included:

- ***CE Parent and Child groups*** - earliest intervention for very young children with motor disorders (0-4 years) who attend with and learn alongside their parents. Groups (sometimes known as 'School for Parents) are usually 2-3 hours long, twice weekly.
- ***CE Kindy / CE Pre-Primary Classes*** - K /PP students with motor disabilities can attend the specialist full time CE classes run by the teacher-conductors at Carson Street School when staffing permits.
- ***CE Outreach Blocks*** - Weekly groups for Primary school students who attend with an education assistant from their mainstream school for termly blocks.
- ***CE Booster Groups*** - 2 hourly after school CE groups for primary aged students with mild motor disabilities (such as hemiplegia)
- ***Holiday Programmes*** - All the above groups have run as intensive holiday programmes held daily over 1 or 2 weeks. These groups have tried to cater particularly for children unable to access CE during term time.

For further information on the CE Programmes and Services currently available, please email president@conductiveedwa.com.au