Reading Your Mind

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I am not aware of those people who never bog conversations in the minutiae. Face to face discussions are an entirely different matter. I usually find them interesting, entertaining, and uplifting. I have wondered on the pull to my classrooms for these two basically similar forms of communication, the one existing over an "aloof" to the end then other as "alive".

I understand that where many find my view perplexing. Many cases and could be seen to be that best, and I might add, longest, conversations exists on the phone. I appreciate this discovery but I still have a hard time understanding what is so great about handicapping your own communication.

I brought countless hours of glaring fatigue, teaching classes and workshops and endless interviews with family and friends. I have learned to recognize not only the content of the interaction, but also the non-verbal patterns. Without the information available to me in the non-verbal cues, I feel like I am only getting part of the picture.

Perhaps my best role is as thinker. I am perhaps unwilling to work to gain the most from the written presentation. After all, there are signals in the voice pacing, volume, voice inflection, intensity, etc. The visually handicapped have access to what sound like and learn to discriminate the subtle aspects of speech. It is the successful aspects of communication which I suspect these social scientists have argued that up to 80% of all communication is non-verbal and it is this part that makes things so much easier for me.

I've never been difficult for me to [illegible] people didn't have some ability to immediately recognize the meaning and significance of the behavior of others. These individuals would have difficulty in judging peoples' moods and attitudes which often be impossible in the atmosphere of social situations and would always be doing or saying the wrong thing at the wrong time or place.

The positive fact is that most people are able to learn the signal system. People observe the ways in which others use their bodies and eyes in communicate, and thus glean information on the inner state. The ambiance or aesthetic cues which each of us gives out is an additional part of this signal system.

Dr. Helen Mitchell has delineated on the need to analyze the skills necessary for successful non-verbal communication. Since many children and adults are weak in the eye system and fail to respond to needed social-sensitive cues, a thorough analysis of the non-verbal communications patterns is critical in the learning process.

Some children have difficulty in recognizing that certain facial expressions have meaning and that a frown confirms they be given as a sign of disapproval. A person's view of the hand may be a sign of going back and certain gestures may be interpreted in reactions. The use of space for communication because very important when someone invades someone else's private space by standing too close, or when a group is on a closed group of their friends meeting new followers. Personal territory can also be invaded if people are being moved in.

Clothes, hair styles, the length of a skirt or even a blouse, the amount and application of cosmetics, all constitute a subjective non-verbal cues which can suggest approval or confusion, anger or caution, friend or foe.

What people take their meaning in non-verbal cues are general. One recognizes that raised, crossed arms tends to mean someone and cropped shoulders or arms folded means [illegible]. But what about a person who is about to raise their arms in a hostile way? Certainly other cues such as facial expression might answer the person's concern and interest.

So why is there not much work skills in those who have difficulty learning them, the person, the teacher, interested? All can be very important, however if social attention is not given to the non-verbal details of interactions, some children will just not learn the [illegible] because human interactions go by so fast.

I believe it is the natural [illegible] of children's picture books who is perhaps the most effective instrument for the non-verbal communication system. We do this from the [illegible] the illustrations they create to parallel the storyline. It is the artist who has studied the relationship between mood and feelings and facial expressions and body postures. Often the [illegible] of a story are communicated through the drawings and by their careful study many non-verbal discriminations can be learned. In this context I would be wondered that a picture book read by a child will be evident to recall every many times. Coupled with such careful scrutiny, coming to the non-verbal cue system will