

INTERNATIONAL CHILD'SPACE CONFERENCE, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

THE WORLD OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

JUNE 18–21, 2020



Theory, practice and live demonstrations exploring: CP and various syndromes, the visual system, prematurity and postpartum depression.

We warmly welcome you to join Dr. Chava Shelhav in an instructive and engaging journey into the world of special physical, emotional and social needs of babies, infants and children.

We will review *Child'Space* methodology and its main principles and various ways of working with children with special limitations. We will look at what kind of knowledge and perception enables us to turn limitations into a life of possibilities.

Dr. Shelhav will introduce the polyvagal theory of the vagus nerve by Porges, as an additional way to re-examine our perspective, means and ways of work. The vagus nerve is a major junction where the emotional side of our brain and social relationships meet. As such, we will explore the parasympathetic and sympathetic systems and their important roles.

We will dive into the different meanings of physical and mental balance, while focusing on the visible and hidden effects of „going out of balance“. Additionally, we will discuss the important issue of childbirth trauma and how to help restore the parental-child relationship.

See detailed conference program on page 2.



This conference addresses *Child'Space* practitioners (graduated or still in training), who would like to deepen their knowledge and skills with regards to children with special needs.

Please contact us with any question you might have and to register:

Feldenkrais Institut Wien
1020 Vienna, Taborstraße 71/1a
www.feldenkraisinstitut.at
Tel.: +43 (0)699 1133 1043
e-mail: training@feldenkraisinstitut.at

Conference language: English.
Conference fee: € 480,- Inkl. VAT/MwSt.

Please make sure that you pay all bank fees when transferring the fee. Feldenkrais Institut Wien does not accept cash payments. The conference fee covers participation in all talks, lectures and activities but not catering/food.

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THURSDAY, June 18, 2020

- 13:00 Welcome and conference opening
- 13:10–14:30 DME: Nurturing the body-image with proprioceptive stimulation as preparation for learning new motor functions. Followed by analysis.
- 14:30–15:30 *Lunch break*
- 15:30–16:45 Talk: What makes the *ChildSpace* method unique for working with children with special needs.
Presenter: Orly Gat, a *ChildSpace* professional trainer and Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner for 6 years. Orly holds a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy and has 18 years of experience in the field of special needs. She contributed to the writing of Chava Shelhav's book „Child Space“.
- 16:45–17:30 Demonstration: Working with a child with special needs, followed by discussion.
- 17:45–19:00 Deepen your familiarity with the proprioceptive system by five different modes of stimulation for addressing the child specific needs.

FRIDAY, June 19, 2020

- 10:00–11:30 Presentation: The polyvagal theory of the vagus nerve by Stephen W. Porges, as an additional way to re-examine our perspective, means and ways of work.
Presenter: Dr. Chava Shelhav with **Orly Gat** (aspects of anatomy).
- 11:45–13:00 DME: Ways to apply the polyvagal theory into practice.
- 13:00–14:30 *Lunch break*
- 14:30–15:30 Demonstration: Working with a child with balance and motor coordination difficulties, followed by Q & A.
- 15:30–16:15 Hands On: Demonstrating and experiencing by working with each other.
- 16:25–17:00 Experiencing sensory-motor learning through play.

A social gathering will be held on one of the conference evenings. Participants will receive an advance notice.

SATURDAY, June 20, 2020

- 10:00–11:30 Lecture: An overview of visual development starting in prenatal phase up to 2 years, intertwined with other aspects of sensory and motor development. Pointing out the “landmarks” in this “plastic period”.
Presenter: Dr. Christine Dolezal, MD, an ophthalmologist who specializes in retinal diseases, glaucoma and pediatric ophthalmology.
- 11:45–13:00 DME: Organization of eye functions: exploring the relationships between existing balance - homeostasis - and movement coordination, followed by a lesson analysis.
- 13:00–14:30 *Lunch break*
- 14:30–15:15 Demonstration: Working with a child with visual impairment followed by a discussion of the implications of vision functions on homeostasis.
- 15:30–17:00 Demo: Working with a group of children with special needs and their parents.

SUNDAY, June 21, 2020

- 10:00–11:30 Talk: Helping mothers suffering from postpartum depression or trauma. Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of a new mother experiencing emotional distress and how to support her in your *ChildSpace* lesson.
Presenter: Barbara Leverone, *ChildSpace* Trainer since 2013 and Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner for 25 years. She holds a Masters' Degree in Mental Health Counseling with advanced study and supervision in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.
- 11:45–13:15 Demonstration: Working with a prematurely born baby and theoretical background on premature development.
- 13:15–14:00 *Lunch break*
- 14:00–14:30 Ways of acting and communicating.
- 14:30–15:30 Conclusions and plans for the future.

All presenters have confirmed. Nevertheless: Program subject to change. Our General Terms and Conditions apply, www.feldenkraisinstitut.at/gtc.