

## **Applications of the instrumental enrichment program (ie) with a group of adolescents having mental retardation.**

*Maria Teresa Amata, Claudia Cantagallo<sup>1</sup>, Giuseppe Di Guardo, Tommasa Zagaria, Serafino Buono<sup>2</sup>*

The Instrumental Enrichment Program (IE), originally conceived by Reuven Feuerstein, represents an intervention instrument with no specific contents, whose main purpose is to improve cognitive functioning.

The application of the IE Program with socially and culturally disadvantaged people, culturally deprived people and persons with mental retardation showed positive effects in increasing specific cognitive functions as well as in improving some of the behavioural variables.

In this contribution, we describe an experience with three adolescents having mild Mental Retardation who received the IE Program.

For each participant, we initially summarized a psychological and pedagogical picture, obtained from the administration of standard and dynamic assessment instruments. The following IE Instruments were applied for this study: Organization of Dots, Spatial Orientation I, Images, Comparisons, Analytic Perception.

Following our experience, remarkable changes in the cognitive functioning of each participant were found; namely the ability to use adequate verbal tools, to adopt more systematic work procedures, to transfer acquisitions to other similar tasks.

<sup>1</sup>*Modulo Operativo di Pedagogia – IRCCS Oasi Maria SS., Via Conte Ruggero, 73 – 94018 Troina (EN) – Tel: 0935–936111*

<sup>2</sup>*Unità Operativa di Psicologia – IRCCS Oasi Maria SS., Troina (EN)*

E-mail: [psico@oasi.en.it](mailto:psico@oasi.en.it)