Purpose:
To introduce to medical doctors a relatively new neurological assessment technique for pre-
school age, i.e. the neurological assessment according to Hempel. The Hempel-assessment is
large based on standardized free play and pays substantial attention to the quality of spontaneous
motor behaviour.

Workshop summary:
The workshop will introduce to medical doctors the Hempel neurological assessment for pre-
school age. The workshop will start with an introduction on basic principles of early
neurological development. Next, guidelines for the Hempel-assessment will be discussed. The
second and major part of the workshop will be dedicated to demonstrations of children (life and
on video). Each case will be amply discussed. Care is taken that participants accurately learn how
to score findings.

Learner-based course objectives:
1. Knowledge on the Hempel assessment technique
2. Knowledge on significance of findings
3. Knowledge on systematic recording of findings

Obligatory reading (will be provided)
• Hempel MS. The neurological examination for toddler-age. PhD-Thesis, University of Groningen, 1993 (The
  Thesis is no longer in book form available; an electronic version of the text can however be obtained)
• Hadders-Algra M. The neuromotor examination of the preschool child and its prognostic significance.
  Submitted for publication. Ment Retard Dev Disabil Res Rev 2005; accepted for publication.
• Hadders-Algra M. Developmental Coordination Disorder: Is clumsy motor behaviour caused by a lesion of the
• Hempel MS. Neurological development during toddling age in normal children and children at risk of
• Huisman M, Koopman-Esseboom C, Lanting CI et al. Neurological condition in 18-months-old children
• Lanting CI, Patandin S, Fidler V et al. Neurological condition in 42-month-old children in relation to pre- and
• Lanting CI, Patandin S, Weisglas-Kuperus N et al. Breastfeeding and neurological outcome at 42 months. Acta
  Paediatr 1998; 87:1224-1229.
Programme

Thursday July 14th 2005

9.00 – 10.15 Introductory lecture
10.15 – 10.45 Coffee break
10.45 - 12.00 Demonstration child 1, aged 4 years – discussion of technique and findings
12.00 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 - 15.00 Assessment of video-recorded Hempel assessments
15.30 – 16.00 Tea break
16.00 – 17.15 Assessment of video-recorded Hempel assessments

Friday July 15th 2005

8.30 – 9.45 Assessment of video-recorded Hempel assessments
9.45 - 10.00 Coffee break
10.00 - 11.15 Demonstration child 2, aged 4 years – discussion of technique and findings
11.15 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 12.45 Assessment of video-recorded Hempel assessments
12.45 – 13.30 Lunch
13.30 - 14.30 Assessment of video-recorded Hempel assessments
14.30 – 14.45 Tea break
14.45 – 15.30 Assessment of video-recorded Hempel assessments; fine-tuning of recording techniques; appointments about feedback in order to achieve reliable results.