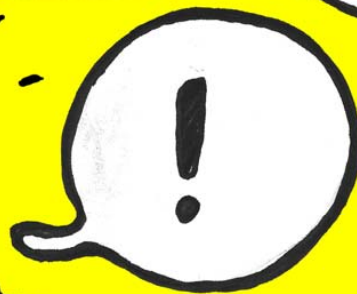




”I want you  
should stop  
wasting your  
time reading  
these cheap  
comic  
books!”

I THINK  
YOU SHOULD START  
READING COMIC  
STRIPS.



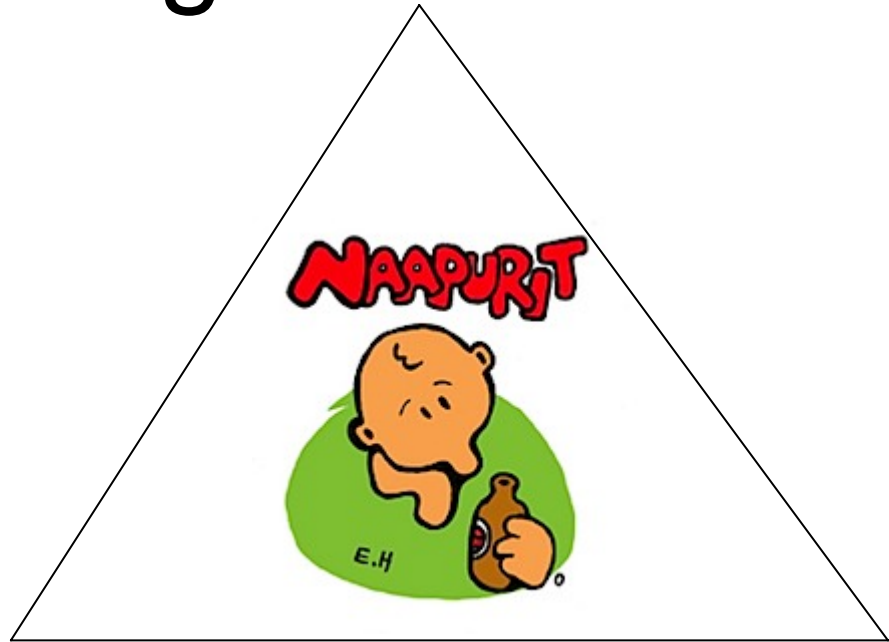
# Background

- A development project on holistic rehabilitation for young persons with challenging behaviour was carried out during 2003-2007
- The challenging behaviour in these young persons was due to intellectual disabilities, various neuropsychiatric symptoms (autism, Asperger syndrome, ADHD) as well as problems in mental health
- The aims of the project were development of daily activities and duties, empowerment by utilizing their targets of interest and their own special skills

# What kind of group activities did we have?

- Forest hikers
- Internet corner
- Therapeutic garden work
- Occupational therapy groups
- Art group in activity centre
- **Comic strips group "President"**
- Etc.

Cognitive abilities



Emotions

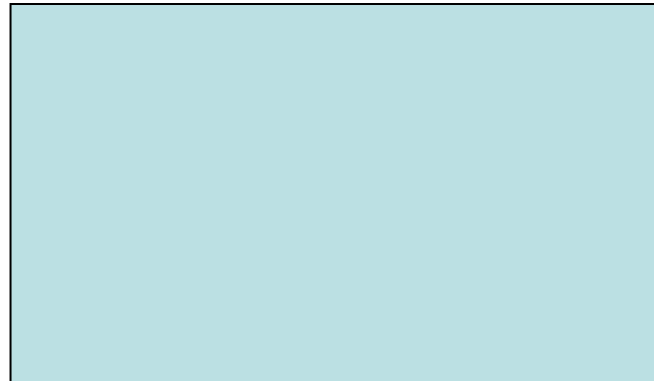
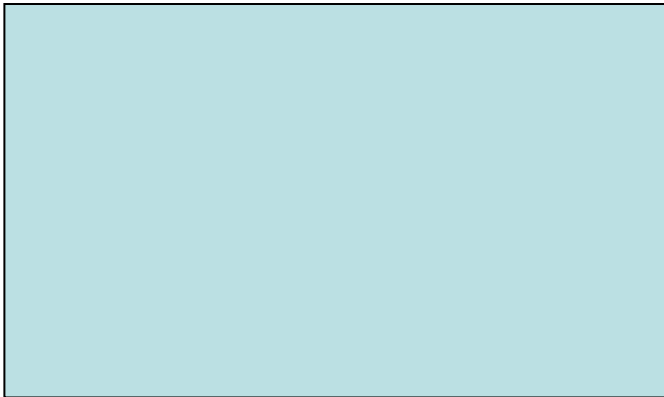
Executive  
functions of  
the brain

# Emotions

- In comic strips the facial expressions are drawn more clearly, like Mr Bean does...
- With the help of pictures of facial expressions it is possible to speak about feelings and learn to name them
- By training even our youngsters have learnt how to draw and name the facial expressions of the characters
  - Smiling dinosaur

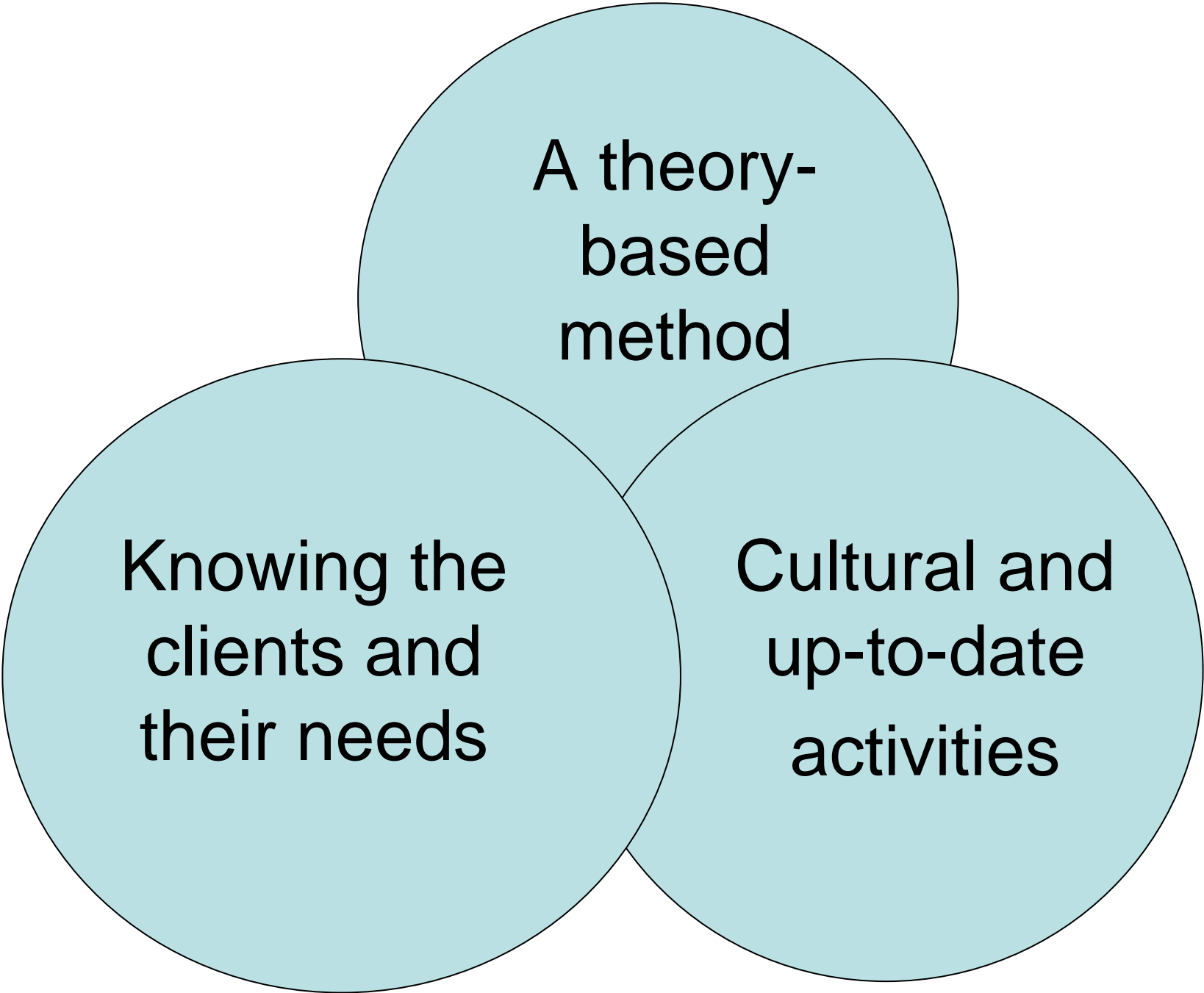
# Cognitive abilities

- The secret of the narrow white line!
  - What has happened between the two pictures?
  - Demands more cognitive activity compared to watching television



# Executive functions of the brain

- Personal small comic strips for supporting the executive functions
  - In order to prepare for new situations; there are such books for children: Tom goes to the dentist's or Mary starts at the school
  - Common situations in which the youngster has developed an inappropriate behaviour
  - They can either draw them by themselves or use already existing comic strips



A theory-  
based  
method

Knowing the  
clients and  
their needs

Cultural and  
up-to-date  
activities

# Some useful names

- Carol Gray, social stories
- Leif Packalén and Sharad Sharma: Grassroots comics – a development communication tool
- Esa Holopainen: [http://plasq.com/component/option,com\\_joomlaboard/Itemid,55/func,view/catid,9/id,9000/#9000](http://plasq.com/component/option,com_joomlaboard/Itemid,55/func,view/catid,9/id,9000/#9000)

Thank you very much, let's draw!