

Abstract

The preverbal repertoire emerging in infancy is the primary form of human communication that conveys our most tenacious desires, intentions and emotions. Created through relationship, goes on to become the tacit-core function of adult behaviour in day-to-day life and within the therapeutic alliance (Frank, 2001).

Choosing a qualitative research method, the researcher, comprehensively explores, through semi-structured interviews, four *qualified* Integrative Psychotherapists experience of this phenomenon, largely unacknowledged, in this field. Upon analysis of data collated, the experiences of the group were compared with literature reviewed in this area.

A Heuristic method immersed the researcher into the data, allowing an inductive discovery into the phenomenon. Findings included key themes: how the preverbal presented for integrative psychotherapists; how, (*if at all*) it was used to promote healing to enhance therapeutic relationship and uncovered the familiarity and proficiency of its use. The findings highlighted the conceivable benefits of using the preverbal including positive changes in the ways in which integrative psychotherapists work with clients, and changes in the ways they think about their practice. The research concludes that acknowledging the preverbal and allowing it to manifest and be utilised within the alliance is useful and fundamental for understanding the clients relational past and its effect in the here and now. Further described as a primary tool to gain depth in relationship and therefore deeper insight into an individual psyche allowing a greater potential of re-experiencing to occur (Gill, 2000).