

# MCAIG Award for Occupational Therapy Support Workers 2008



## **Integrating the VdT MoCA into a Learning Disabilities Settir**

I first learnt about the VdT Model of Creative Ability (VdT MoCA) from Heidi Morgan, a tutor at the Essex School of OT. Having used it on practice placements and integrated the theory into assignments, I felt I developed a good base understanding. I work at the Basildon Community Learning Disabilities Team and I was keen to support the OTs to begin integrating the model when told that this was the way forward. The diverse abilities and complex needs of our clients meant this was challenging but enlightening in terms of understanding how to challenge them to achieve transformation and reach potential.

Being offered the MCAIG award was a surprise but I was obviously pleased to accept and grateful to my colleagues who are supportive of my development and proactive in using the model. With the award money I purchased four books which I'm sure will be valuable throughout my final year of training and long awaited OT career. Presentations at the National Model of Creative Ability conference were inspiring and the day highlighted to me that understanding and confidently using the model is an ongoing process. I have gained more personal satisfaction in my work, as the VdT MoCA has helped me realise that what can seem like small changes in a client's participation can be significant developments for them which I highlight to carers and families.

By Jacqui Schon (OT Technician, Basildon Community Learning Disability Team and OT student at the Colchester Institute School of OT)