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**Augmentative-Alternative Communication: An Introduction**  
(2 CE HOURS)

**PDH Academy Course #1803**

**Course Abstract**

This Intermediate level course immerses learners in the swiftly-changing world of Augmentative-Alternative Communication, touching on key vocabulary and definitions, common myths, potential users, and available levels of technology and their pros and cons.

*NOTE: Links provided within the course material are for informational purposes only. No endorsement of processes or products is intended or implied.*



PDH Academy is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered for .2 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area)

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, learners will be able to:

Recall the definitions of “communication” and “augmentative-alternative communication” as well as key terminology involved in discussions of Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC)

Recognize populations for whom AAC intervention may be of benefit, with attention to the role of the communication partner in AAC

Identify common myths surrounding AAC and rebuttals to each

Differentiate between no tech, low tech, and high tech AAC components, with attention to their pros and cons

**Timed Topic Outline**

I. Definitions and Terminology (10 minutes)

- II. Common Myths Surrounding Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) (15 minutes)
- III. Who Should Use AAC and Why? (5 minutes)
- IV. AAC Systems - Just What Are We Talking About? (75 minutes)
  - No Tech, Low Tech, High Tech
- V. References, Additional Resources, and Exam (15 minutes)

### **Delivery Method**

Correspondence/internet self-study with interactivity, including a provider-graded final exam. *To earn continuing education credit for this course, you must achieve a passing score of 80% on the final exam.*

### **Accessibility and/or Special Needs Concerns?**

Contact customer service by phone at (888)564-9098 or email at [pdhacademy@gmail.com](mailto:pdhacademy@gmail.com).

### **Course Author Bio & Disclosure**

Susan Berkowitz received a B.A. in Psychology from Clark University, an M.S. in Speech-Pathology and Audiology from Tulane, and an M.Ed. in Education Administration from California State University at Fullerton. She also has extensive graduate background in Special Education and Applied Behavior Analysis, and has worked with children with autism for more than 40 years.

Susan has worked in a variety of settings as a SLP, a Director of Education, and a Chairperson of the Speech Pathology Department. Her career has taken her to public and private schools, developmental centers, group homes, and adult day programs. She currently runs her own private practice in San Diego, providing Independent Educational Evaluations in speech-language, AAC, and Assistive Technology, as well as consultation and staff training. She presents at a variety of national conferences and provides workshops in AAC, autism, and literacy.

Financial – Susan Berkowitz is the owner of, and a developer at, Language Learning Apps LLC; offers materials for purchase at TeachersPayTeachers.com; and received a stipend as the author of this course. Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists.