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Communication Levels & Augmentative-Alternative Communication
(3.5 CE HOURS)

PDH Academy Course #1804

Course Abstract

This Intermediate level course discusses communication levels and corresponding Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) interventions and implementation strategies, with particular attention paid to the role of Aided Language Stimulation (ALgS).

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 .35 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area)

Learning Objectives

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

Differentiate between the four competency goals shared by all Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) users, with attention to factors that influence communication competence

Recognize two methods of categorizing communication levels/communicators and AAC possibilities for each

Recall two interactions used to foster language growth

Recognize the importance of partner training and its role in AAC implementation strategies

Identify Aided Language Stimulation (ALgS), with attention to creating/providing opportunities to use it

Recognize prompting and how it should be used

Recall why and how participation-based activities support contextual teaching

Differentiate between functional and therapeutic communication interactions

Recall several ways intervention sessions can provide opportunities to practice social communication

Timed Topic Outline

I. Communication Competence (15 minutes)

II. Developmental Levels of Communication (40 minutes)

III. Emerging, Beginning and Intermediate Symbolic Communicators (15 minutes)

IV. How and Where to Begin? (15 minutes)

V. Partner Training (Including Handout) (20 minutes)

VI. Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) Implementation Strategies (5 minutes)

VII. Aided Language Stimulation (ALgS): AAC Immersion (15 minutes)

VIII. Creating and Providing Opportunities to Use ALgS (15 minutes)

IX. Prompting Strategies (5 minutes)

X. Contextual Teaching and Active Participation (5 minutes)

XI. Functional vs Therapeutic Communication Intervention (5 minutes)

XII. Pull out or Push-in? (5 minutes)

XIII. Intervention Sessions (15 minutes)

XIV. Furthering Communication Skills (5 minutes)

XV. A Word about Setting and Writing Goals (5 minutes)

XVI. References, Additional Resources, and Exam (25 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.

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.