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Literacy & Augmentative-Alternative Communication Users:
Using Literature to Increase Language Skills and Language to Build Literacy
(3 CE HOURS)

PDH Academy Course #1808

Course Abstract

This Intermediate level course walks learners through the language-literacy continuum as it applies to Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC), beginning with a discussion of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), continuing with language skills as they relate to literature, and ending with literacy.

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 .3 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area)

Learning Objectives

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

Recognize the impact of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) on literacy instruction for students with severe disabilities and complex needs

Differentiate between two different approaches for organizing vocabulary in Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC)

Recall the Four Block Framework, with attention to how it can be adapted to AAC

Identify the three levels of text used in reading instruction, including ways AAC users can interact with each

Distinguish between phonological awareness skills, with attention to how AAC users can master them

Recall books that lend themselves well to adaptation for AAC users, and considerations that apply to the adaptation process

Identify which adaptations to the general education curriculum help ensure access to AAC users

Timed Topic Outline

- I. Impact of Common Core (10 minutes)
- II. Building Language Skills: Providing the Words (20 minutes)
- III. Start At the Beginning – Read (10 minutes)
- IV. Building Engagement: Working with Text (40 minutes)
- V. Building Literacy: Increasing Phonological Awareness Skills (20 minutes)
- VI. Adapting Instruction (25 minutes)
- VII. Adapting Books (25 minutes)
- VIII. Adapting the General Education Curriculum (5 minutes)
- IX. 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.