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Organized Vocabulary: Augmentative-Alternative Communication
(1.5 CE HOURS)

PDH Academy Course #1805

Course Abstract

This Intermediate level course visits the often-contentious topic of vocabulary selection and organization in Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) devices, touching on vocabulary organization, types of vocabulary, and their application to commonly-used AAC systems.

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 .15 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area)

Learning Objectives

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

List six points supporting the need for spontaneous novel utterance generation (SNUG) in Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) systems

Identify challenges related to vocabulary organization in AAC systems, and list pros and cons of three organizational methods

Recall definitions and examples of core vs. fringe vocabulary

Recognize the key concepts involved in core vocabulary AAC systems

Recognize the key concepts involved in pragmatically organized AAC systems

Timed Topic Outline

I. Achieving spontaneous novel utterance generation (SNUG) (5 minutes)

- II. Organizing Vocabulary (10 minutes)
- III. Types of Vocabulary (15 minutes)
- IV. Core Vocabulary Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) Systems (20 minutes)
- V. Pragmatically Organized Communication Systems (25 minutes)
- VI. Final Thoughts & Conclusion (5 minutes)
- VII. References, Additional Resources, and Exam (10 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.