

AUGMENTATIVE-ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION: **AN INTRODUCTION (3 CE HOURS)**

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.

Learning Objectives

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

Define “communication” and “augmentative-alternative communication” as well as key terminology involved in discussions of AAC, and use them appropriately

List populations for whom AAC intervention may be of benefit, and explain the value of the communication partner in AAC

Identify common myths surrounding AAC, and detail rebuttals to each

Describe no tech, low tech, and high tech AAC components, and identify pros and cons of each

Timed Topic Outline

- I. Definitions and Terminology (15 minutes)
- II. Common Myths Surrounding AAC (30 minutes)
- III. Who Should Use AAC and Why? (15 minutes)
- IV. AAC Systems - Just What Are We Talking About? (100 minutes)
No Tech, Low Tech, High Tech
- V. References, Additional Resources, and Exam (20 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.*

Course Author

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.

She received a stipend as the author of this course; she has no other relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships to disclose.