

COMMUNICATION LEVELS AND AAC INTERVENTIONS **(4.5 CE HOURS)**

Course Abstract

This Intermediate level course uses the areas of competence that should be developed in AAC users as the launching point for a discussion of communication levels and corresponding AAC interventions and implementation strategies, with particular attention paid to the role of ALgS.

Learning Objectives

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

Discuss the four competency goals shared by all AAC users, and listing factors that influence communication competence

Detail two methods of categorizing communication levels/communicators including AAC possibilities for each

Describe two interactions used to foster language growth

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

Discuss Aided Language Stimulation, with attention to creating/providing opportunities to use it

Define prompting and explain how it should be used

List participation-based activities that support contextual teaching

Detail functions of intervention sessions

Timed Topic Outline

- I. Communication Competence (20 minutes)
- II. Developmental Levels of Communication (40 minutes)
- III. Emerging, Beginning and Intermediate Symbolic Communicators (25 minutes)
- IV. How and Where to Begin? (25 minutes)
- V. Partner Training (Including Handout) (25 minutes)
- VI. AAC Implementation Strategies (5 minutes)
- VII. Aided Language Stimulation: AAC Immersion (20 minutes)
- VIII. Creating and Providing Opportunities to Use ALgS (15 minutes)
- IX. Prompting Strategies (5 minutes)
- X. Contextual Teaching and Active Participation (10 minutes)

- XI. Functional vs Therapeutic Communication Intervention (5 minutes)
- XII. Pull out or Push-in? (5 minutes)
- XIII. Intervention Sessions (20 minutes)
- XIV. Furthering Communication Skills (5 minutes)
- XV. A Word about Setting and Writing Goals (5 minutes)
- XVI. References, Exam, Evaluation (40 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.