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**AUGMENTATIVE-ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION & SPECIAL POPULATIONS**  
**Including Access Needs (4 CE HOURS)**

**PDH Academy Course #1505**

**Course Abstract**

This Intermediate level course describes alternate access options in Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC), and their relevance to individuals with cerebral palsy, Rett Syndrome, Cortical Vision Impairment, aphasia, Down syndrome, developmental apraxia of speech, and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

*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 .4 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area)

**Learning Objectives**

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

Describe at least four alternate access modes for individuals who cannot use direct selection

List the five major types of cerebral palsy, and discuss its impact on Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) considerations

Identify the population typically affected by Rett Syndrome, and describe its impact on AAC considerations

Define Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI), with attention to its difference from ocular disorders, and explain its impact on AAC considerations

List the different forms of aphasia, and explain its impact on AAC considerations

Explain how AAC intervention can be useful to individuals with Down syndrome or developmental apraxia of speech

Discuss the benefits of using AAC with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), with attention to evidence based practices

### **Timed Topic Outline**

- I. Alternate Access (35 minutes)
- II. Cerebral Palsy (15 minutes)
- III. Rett Syndrome (15 minutes)
- IV. Cortical Vision Impairment (30 minutes)
- V. Aphasia (15 minutes)
- VI. Down Syndrome (15 minutes)
- VII. Developmental Apraxia of Speech (10 minutes)
- VIII. Autism Spectrum Disorder (70 minutes)
- IX. References, Additional Resources, and Exam (35 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](mailto: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.

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