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Augmentative-Alternative Communication & Special Populations

Including Access Needs
(3 CE HOURS)

PDH Academy Course #1807

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 .3 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area)

Learning Objectives

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

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

Differentiate between the five major types of cerebral palsy, with attention to their impact on Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) considerations

Identify the population typically affected by Rett Syndrome, with attention to its impact on AAC considerations

Differentiate between Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) and ocular disorders, with attention to CVI's impact on AAC considerations

List the different forms of aphasia, with attention to its impact on AAC considerations

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

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

Timed Topic Outline

- I. Alternate Access (30 minutes)
- II. Cerebral Palsy (15 minutes)
- III. Rett Syndrome (10 minutes)
- IV. Cortical Vision Impairment (20 minutes)
- V. Aphasia (10 minutes)
- VI. Down Syndrome (5 minutes)
- VII. Developmental Apraxia of Speech (5 minutes)
- VIII. Autism Spectrum Disorder (60 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.