AAC Course Learning Objectives

COURSE 1- INTRODUCTION TO AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

- At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

  o Identify the scope of augmentative communication from simple to complex;

  o Identify basic definitions of AAC;

  o Identify both current and future technology trends;

  o Demonstrate basic skill in individual and systems advocacy with reference to AAC devices and services, including funding;

  o Describe the major funding sources within the United States;

  o Describe pending and current legislation on AAC issues;

  o Develop strategies for locating and obtaining AAC funding resources;

  o Demonstrate an appreciation for the interdisciplinary process of AAC services;

- *Session 1-Introduction to Augmentative Communication*

  o This session will introduce the participants to AAC terminology, high and low technology, the purpose of the use of AAC, and the history of AAC.

- *Session 2-Legislation, Funding, Resources*

  o This session will introduce the participants to legislation that regulates the use and funding of AAC, funding sources for AAC devices, and community resources for obtaining AAC devices and services.

- *Session 3-Interdisciplinary Teams in AAC service delivery*

  o This session will introduce the participants to related health care providers and define their specific roles in the process of AAC implementation and evaluation.

COURSE 2 – Evaluation for AAC systems/supports

- At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

    o Demonstrate an understanding of the process of assessment of AAC needs by identifying the major steps in an assessment process;

    o Describe system feature matching related to AAC system recommendations;

    o Understand the use of the SETT framework as it relates to AAC evaluations;

    o Demonstrate an ability to generate content related to AAC evaluation reports using templates and case studies;

- *Session 1-System Feature Match*

    o This session will introduce the participants to core components of AAC systems related to individual users skills. Specific focus will include identifying strengths and baseline skills and matching them with appropriate hardware and software.

- *Session 2-SETT Framework*

    o This session will introduce the participants to the SETT framework. Participants will identify the importance of the Student, Environment, Task and Tools as it relates to the evaluation process.

- *Session 3-AAC Report Writing*

    o This session will introduce the participants to case studies that will be used to generate written reports. Templates will be utilized to provide structured writing opportunities for participants. Emphasis will be placed on medical versus educational report formats.

- *Session 4- Evaluating Complex Communication Needs*

    o Participants will engage in multimedia case studies to evaluate individuals with complex communication needs. This session will also include customization and creation of AAC solutions based on evaluation results. Small groups will be utilized for intercolleague collaboration.

AAC Course Learning Objectives

COURSE 3- Implementation of AAC systems across environments

- At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

    o Identify a wide range of AAC uses in the home, school, leisure, and workplace environments

    o Identify potential ways to improve education, vocation, and independent living with AAC

    o Determine the appropriate home/school/work options and modifications for computer access using AAC systems

    o Develop strategies to support teachers, parents, peers, and other related services providers implement AAC systems

- *Session 1- Developing Implementation Plans for AAC systems and AAC for School/Education/Work/Leisure Settings*

    o This session will introduce the participants to implementation plans that outline AAC device usage across environments

    o Participants will have the opportunity use a variety of AAC language systems to access services, participate in academic tasks, demonstrate work related skills, and socialize with others via role playing activities. Participants will also discuss opportunities for expanding AAC usage within the community and discuss current barriers to consistent implementation.

- *Session 2- Training for Parents, Peers, Teachers, and other related service providers*

    o This session will introduce the participants to strategies for developing training materials for parents, peers, teachers, and other related service providers. Participants will access resources that help to support AAC training across environments.

- *Session 3-Connecting Curriculum Goals and AAC systems*

    o Participants will review curricular materials and adapt strategies to accommodate

academic tasks using AAC systems. This session will include interfacing AAC systems with peripherals, software, and media to increase classroom participation. Additional focus will include use of AAC systems for email, social media, and external periphery access (i.e. ECU access)

COURSE 4-ALTERNATIVE ACCESS SYSTEMS FOR AAC DEVICES

- At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

  o Identify a wide range of adapted equipment used for accessing AAC devices;

  o Understand the role of the OT and PT as it relates to determining primary and secondary access systems;

  o Evaluate skills required for individuals to use direct access for AAC devices;

  o Evaluate skills required for individuals to use indirect access for AAC devices;

  o Obtain information regarding augmentative and alternative communication to include

    ▪ Identifying input, processing, and output features;

    ▪ Understanding various access, scanning, vocabulary selection, and simple-to-high-tech features of devices;

  o Review recent literature on advancing access technologies for AAC devices

- *Session 1-Identifying Direct Vs. Indirect Selection Users*

  o This session will introduce the participants strategies for evaluating access to determine:

    ▪ System layout including number of icons per page

    ▪ Need for color contrasts, borders, or grids

    ▪ Ability to use AAC systems as a Direct selector

AAC Course Learning Objectives

- ▪ Ability to use AAC systems as an Indirect selector

- *Session 2-AAC Scanning*

    o Participants will learn how to establish AAC systems using switch based scanning

    o Evaluate various switches and alternative access Tools

    o Utilize single step scanning as a strategy for AAC device access

    o Utilize two step scanning as a strategy for AAC device access

    o Develop skills to customize device layouts to support visual and device scanning needs

Course IV *continued...*

- *Session 3- Team Evaluations in Determining Access solutions*

    o This session will describe the role of each team member. It will include work flow charts to evaluate when additional consultation for access during the AAC process is warranted. In addition, the importance of visual scanning, seating and positioning will be discussed.

- *Session 4 : Advanced Access systems*

    o This session will focus on alternative access sites including head, elbow, knee, foot, etc. Participants will also utilize eye gaze systems. Focus will be on calibration, customization, and training of eye gaze systems as an alternative access tool.

COURSE 5-LANGUAGE SYSTEMS/DEVICE PROGRAMMING/LITERACY

- At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

    o Identify various language systems and their features and functions;

    o Obtain information regarding vocabulary acquisition goals for various ages and developmental abilities;

AAC Course Learning Objectives

- o Participate in AAC device customization and programming;

- o Identify the process of integrating AAC and literacy-based instruction in the classroom

- *Session 1-Language Systems*

    - o This session will address the various AAC language systems and how the underlying structure impacts usage. This session will also include descriptions of how each individual with complex communication needs may benefit from variations in language systems.

- *Session 2- Vocabulary Acquistion*

    - o This session will further address the skills needed to introduce, maintain and develop vocabulary acquisition through the use of AAC systems.

- *Session 3-AAC Programming*

    - o This session will introduce the participants to device customization and programming across multiple platforms.

- *Session 4- AAC and Literacy Development*

    - o This session will focus on the role of the SLP in supporting Literacy development using AAC strategies. This will include evidence based literacy programs and research targeting nonverbal learners.