



It's All About Teamwork: A Collaborative Approach to Effective AAC/AT Assessment and Implementation

**Presenters: Betsy Caporale, M.S., CCC-SLP, AAC/AT Specialist
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Instructional Time: 6 Hours

This full-day workshop will help empower IEP teams to conduct assessments and provide functional, practical assistive technology (AT) and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) tools and strategies for students with complex communication and learning needs.

Participants will learn:

- Best practices regarding the consideration, acquisition and implementation of AT/AAC tools and strategies.
- How to use a skills matrix as an assessment tool to determine strengths, challenges and appropriate AT/AAC strategies for students with complex needs
- How to use the matrix to write appropriate, defensible IEP goals and objectives, incorporating the use of AT/AAC
- How to develop an AT/AAC Implementation Plan for a student based on the student's unique learning profile

The workshop is designed to provide IEP teams with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to support the use of AAC/AT across learning environments, thereby reducing reliance on the services of an AT or AAC specialist. Participants are encouraged to attend in teams so that the collaborative approach to AT/AAC assessment and implementation can be practiced first hand.

Learning activities include:

- Discussion of relevant research
- Hands-on practice with a variety of no-tech, lite-tech and high-tech systems
- Conducting a collaborative assessment using a Skills Matrix for Students with Complex Communication and Learning Needs
- Developing an AT/AAC Implementation Plan in collaboration with IEP team members
- Writing functional, realistic and defensible IEP goals and objective which incorporate the use of AT/AAC

Participants will be given a wealth of no-cost and low-cost resources to assist them in implementing AT/AAC in the educational setting, including hardware, software, learning activities, adapted curriculum and websites.

Who will benefit: Administrators, Special Education Teachers, General Education Teachers (Co-Teachers, Push-in Teachers), Full Inclusion Specialists, SLP's, OT's, Psychologists, Behavioral Support Providers, Paraprofessionals