



Differentiating Curriculum for Students with Complex Communication and Learning Needs

Presenters: Betsy Caporale, M.S., CCC-SLP, AAC/AT Specialist
Emily Murchison, Education Specialist, AT Specialist

Instructional Time: 6 Hours

Target Audience: This interactive workshop is appropriate for anyone serving students with complex communication and learning needs, including administrators, general education teachers, special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, AT specialists and support staff.

Description: Students with complex communication and learning needs require a range of accommodations and modifications to assist them in accessing the curriculum, participating in academic activities and interacting with peers and adults. During this workshop, participants will learn about a variety of teaching tools and curriculum units that IEP teams can use to support students with complex communication and learning needs while engaging them in meaningful activities. Participants will also learn about a teaching framework to help guide them in developing theme-based lesson plans and instructional activities which can be easily differentiated for students of all ages and abilities. Examples of goals and objectives modified for students of various ages and ability levels will be shared, and tips for writing quality, defensible IEP goals will be provided. Throughout this presentation the importance of a collaborative team approach will be stressed, with a focus on empowering educators and support staff to help facilitate independence for all students. Participants will leave this workshop with an abundance of educational resources and activities for students with complex communication and learning needs.

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the seven stages of early learning based on Blooms Taxonomy.
- Select appropriate learning activities for a student based on current skill levels.
- Identify 5 different sources of curricular materials that can be used to differentiate instruction.
- Demonstrate three ways to differentiate instruction for a specific student with complex communication and learning needs.
- Establish meaningful, realistic goals and objectives for a student with complex needs.