

Augmentative and Alternative Communication Assessment Training

Facilitated by **Heather Miller Schwarz, MS, CCC-SLP, UCP Seguin & Kathleen Post, MS, CCC-SLP, Midwestern University**

Beginning February 20, 2024 (additional dates listed below)

Location: DeKalb ROE, 2500 N. Annie Glidden Rd., DeKalb, IL 60115

Register Online: <https://bit.ly/3tUz9gL>

DESCRIPTION

This assessment series is designed for teams with prior knowledge and experience using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) in the classroom. Teams are to be comprised of at least 1 SLP and educational team members (teacher, OT, PT, para-educator, administrator, SW). Each Team member **MUST APPLY** individually but should list each team member where noted. This will allow for each participant to receive their registration information and certificates. If you have any questions on team member eligibility please contact Heather Miller hmill@ucpnet.org for further information. This presentation will discuss the AAC assessment process within the education environment. Participants will compare features of AAC tools including current mobile technology apps and dedicated speech generating devices and examine the benefits of matching the tool to the student rather than matching the student to the tool. The steps of an AAC assessment will be outlined & discussion will focus on evaluation models, tools, and recommendations. Teams will work collaboratively to complete a guided AAC assessment with one chosen student during the months of the training. Participants will walk away with the knowledge necessary to make decisions that best support a student's communication needs within the classroom.

FULL DAY Face-to-Face AAC Seminars

1. February 20, 2024 - AAC Overview (8:30 AM - 3:30 PM)
2. February 28, 2023 - AAC Assessment (8:30 AM - 3:30 PM)

FOLLOW UP WEBINARS

1. March 20, 2024 - Customizing for Trials (8:00-9:30 AM)
2. April 10, 2024 - Data collection in Trials (8:00-9:30 AM)
3. May 1, 2024 - Funding and report writing (8:00-9:30 AM)

OUTCOMES

The learner will be able to:

1. identify the components of a feature match assessment and list three tools to support this process.
2. compare and contrast the features of a variety of AAC tools including apps and speech generating devices for communication.
3. identify three strategies to promote AAC usage during and after the AAC trial and teach others.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR TEAM APPLICATION NO LATER THAN February 10, 2024

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Heather Miller Schwarz, MS, CCC-SLP is a Speech-Language Pathologist with over 20 years of experience working with individuals with complex communication needs. She has had experiences in public school, private practice and non-profit settings and has participated as a member of IEP and assistive technology teams. Currently, she is an Assistive Technology Lead for Collaborations and Trainings at UCP Seguin- Infinitec where she collaborates with IEP teams to provide augmentative and alternative communication support through student assessment and communication partner training and coaching. Heather has presented at local conferences in Illinois in addition to Closing the Gap, SWAAC and the Illinois Speech Hearing and Language Association Conferences. Her areas of interest continue to include pediatric speech-language disorders and assistive technology for individuals of all ages and abilities.



Kathleen A. Post, MS, CCC-SLP is the Clinic Coordinator and an Associate Professor at MWU's Speech-Language Institute. She teaches courses in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and supervises SLP graduate student clinicians at the Speech-Language Institute in all facets of speech and language service. Previously, Kathleen was the Director of Assistive Technology, Speech/Language and Nutrition Departments at a large pediatric outpatient rehabilitation center in Illinois. For over 30 years, Kathleen Post has served individuals and their families who are challenged with communication disorders. Kathleen has presented at national conferences (Closing the Gap, the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) conferences), as well as at local venues (Illinois Speech Hearing and Language Association Conference (ISHA) and multiple school district sites). She has provided a series of webinar trainings in AAC Assessment for UCP-Infinitec. Kathleen has written two blog postings for USSAAC addressing transitioning between speech generating devices. She has also recently been engaged in a research project with colleagues focusing on parent training in partner augmented input and AAC. Her areas of interest continue to include pediatric speech-language disorders, early intervention services, augmentative and alternative communication, and assistive technology for persons of all ages and disabilities.



Financial Disclosure: Heather Miller Schwarz is employed by UCP Seguin Infinitec and receives compensation for providing this training. **Non-Financial Disclosure:** Heather Miller Schwarz is a member of ISHA, ASHA and SIG 12.

Financial Disclosure: Kathleen Post receives compensation for this training by UCP Seguin Infinitec. **Non-Financial Disclosure:** Kathleen Post is a member of ASHA and SIG 12

This program qualifies for ISBE PD clock hours and CE for SLPs, OTs, PTs, SWs, Nurses through IDFP and ASHA CEUs. ****Must attend all training sessions in their entirety to earn ASHA Continuing Education****

NOTE: ASHA CE Registry does not apply to those who independently track their credit hours. CEUs are only awarded to those persons who are valid members of the Registry who attend all hours of the training.



United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of
Greater Chicago

Intermediate Level
1.55 ASHA CEUs

Registration fee: No Cost

Thank you to the Illinois State Board of Education for their financial support.

Registration Questions? Email Heather Miller Schwarz hmillers@ucpnet.org