Multi-Modal Communication Strategies
for Children Who Have Complex Communication Needs

MAY 9 and 10, 2012

SMITH COLLEGE, NORTHAMPTON, MA

13 PDPs or 1.3 ASHA CEUs (Pending)

Audience: Speech and language pathologists, assistive technology specialists, special educators, and others working with children with limited speech

We reserve the right to change the location or timing of an event. Confirmation email with any updates is sent one week prior to the event start date. Written withdrawals via mail, fax, or e-mail are accepted without penalty up to five working days before the start date. After that, there are no refunds or billing adjustments. POs with incorrect pricing are corrected and billed at the proper district rate. Complete policy details: collaborative.org/profdev/event-registration. In the event of inclement weather, check online at collaborative.org or call after 6:30am (413.586.4900) for delay/cancellation information.
PODD Communication Books
Two-Day Introductory Workshop

Children who are nonspeaking or have only limited speech, in addition to other challenges, often struggle to interact and communicate. This may include children who have physical disabilities, multiple disabilities, sensory processing challenges, limited social interaction skills, and/or a range of cognitive limitations and learning difficulties.

This two day course will demonstrate the use of a Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) approach developed by Gayle Porter (Melbourne, Australia). Generic templates for multi-page “light tech” communication books have been carefully designed to support genuine communication for a variety of functions throughout the day. These templates may be customized for a range of access methods and other individual needs.

Come learn strategies for creating multi-modal language learning environments that provide receptive models and expressive opportunities for language development. Learn strategies for teaching and using PODD with children and their communication partners. Videos and case examples will be shared. Participants will have an opportunity for hands-on practice with PODD Communication Books.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the challenges faced by professionals creating communication systems in terms of vocabulary organization, layout, design, range of access strategies and customizing for individual requirements.
- Discuss the importance of receptive language input and creating a language learning environment.
- Discuss the features of a PODD communication system in terms of vocabulary organization, layout, design, range of access strategies and customizing for individual requirements.
- Use PODD generic template resources to produce customized communication books.
- Discuss the teaching and learning strategies for implementing PODD communication systems with students and team members.

**Workshop details:** collaborative.org/special-education/events

**About the Presenter**

An internationally known pioneer in the field of simplified technology for children with severe challenges, Linda Burkhart has developed numerous adapted switches and innovative strategies for using these devices with children. She is the author of a number of books and software titles on topics of assistive technology and augmentative communication. Linda has been conducting workshops and presentations nationally and internationally since 1982.

**Audience**

Speech and language pathologists, assistive technology specialists, special educators, and others working with children with limited speech

**MAXIMUM OF 50 PARTICIPANTS**

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**Everyone is a learner**