ISAAC “Vibes of AAC” Virtual Event 2024
Informational Webinar

August 14, 2024
12:00 Noon Toronto (Eastern) Time
Communication Access
1. Opening Remarks and Review of Event Basics (5 minutes)
2. Spotlight on Sponsors / Presenters (5 minutes per presenter)
3. “Vibes of AAC” logistics (5 – 10 minutes)
4. Question and answer period (as required)
Opening Remarks and Review of Event Basics
Spotlight on Sponsors / Presenters
A Vibe of ... INSIGHT

For me, this conference can almost be captured in one word... Insight.

- We get insight into an AAC communicator’s world
- We get insight into new information that has been gathered by researchers
- We get insight into best practices honed by world-class clinicians
- We get insight into the world of developing AAC systems from AAC manufacturers.
French Vocabulary Options from PRC-Saltillo

TUES (Oct 29), 8-9 am
It's Not Just Translation: Adapting AAC Language Systems for International Use

TUES (Oct 29), 9-10 EDT
Bilingual English/Spanish Options from PRC-Saltillo

TUES (Oct 29), 10-11 EDT
Vibes & Values

• We are guided by our core values
  Trust
  Respect
  Integrity
  Mission

Enable individuals with speech & language impairments to successfully communicate and interact in their environment.
Enhancing Self-Expression for Autistic Students using AAC – 30th of October 10pm

Elizabeth Bahr, MA, CCC-SLP and Erin Levy, MA, CCC-SLP
Clinical Assistive Communication Specialists
Define self-expression

Explore benefits of self-expression

Opportunities for self-expression in AT

Promoting self-expression in AT
Definition

Self-expression

*Revealing identity, personality, feelings, thoughts, and opinions*
Impact of Self-Expression for Those Using AT

- Psychological
- Relational
- Educational
- Vocational
- Physical

- Student
- Supporters
- Community

- Connection
- Security in care
- Knowledge of needs and abilities

- Expanded world view
- Contributions to society

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Opportunities for Self-Expression in AAC:

- Voice
- Languages
- Symbols and photos
- Words and sentences
- Communication modalities
- More than communication
Promoting Self-Expression with Assistive Technology

- Understand current and potential needs/desires
- Obtain assistive technology for now with growth opportunities for later
- Obtain or provide training to individual and team
- Plan for ongoing and growing self-expression
Learning Objectives

1. State the benefit of self-expression to AAC users, their immediate circle, and classroom community.

2. Explain three ways to modify AAC **visually** to support self-expression.

3. Name three features which support self-expression **auditorily** in AAC.
Thank you!
About Me

Tracy Rackensperger, Ph.D.

Public Service Faculty at the Institute on Human Development and Disability, University of Georgia

President of the United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC)

Participant in the North American Alliance for Communication Access (NAACA)

Co-Leader of Training and Dissemination for the RERC on AAC
My Thoughts

Attend the ISAAC Conference!

Committee working hard to create rich content and diverse topics

Anticipation of a valuable experience for attendees
AAC and Adult Life: New Directions for AAC Research and Educational Supports

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 29th, 8am
Presenting with: Lance McLemore and David McNaughton

Focus: Experiences and research on four key goals for adult life:
- Safe living environments
- Meaningful activities (like employment)
- Access to needed services (e.g., healthcare)
- Development of friendships and intimate relationships

Topics covered: Importance of preparing AAC users for adult life from childhood, Early development of communication and self-determination skills, insights from adult AAC users who successfully navigated life transitions, and a discussion on advancements in AAC technology and instructional approaches

Funded by NIDILRR (National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research)
Breaking Barriers: Fostering Communication Access and Awareness (Insights from ISAAC Cancún)

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 30th, 11am
Presenting with: Yoosun Chung, Jamie Gibbs, and Donna Lopez

Focus: Fostering communication access and raising awareness for AAC users

Topics covered: Insights from ISAAC Cancún experience, actionable strategies and impactful initiatives promoting accessibility, and exploration of practical approaches to breaking down barriers and fostering inclusivity in diverse settings

Based on work by North American Alliance for Communication Access (NAACA)
“Vibes of AAC” Logistics

- Webinar platform – accessibility and ease of use/access are top of mind for ISAAC!

- Presentations are now scheduled for October 29 and 30. Full schedule of sessions is available here.

- Program will begin with Opening Ceremonies, to be scheduled for October 28.

- Opening Ceremonies program to include welcome messages, keynote speakers, awards ceremony, and prize draw!

- Webinar platform will also include translated captioning, to further attendee accessibility.

- Communication and marketing strategies to maximize attendance.
Question and Answer Period
THANK YOU!

If you have not already registered for ISAAC’s “Vibes of AAC” Virtual Event, register now at https://conference.isaac-online.org/

See you there!