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Low Tech Contextual Supports for People with Aphasia

December 9, 2026
7:00-8:00 p.m. EDT

PRESENTED BY:
Rebecca Urata, Gabriel Ramos, Alyssa Arballo, Maritza Gutierrez



ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

Rebecca Urata is a speech-language pathology Clinical Fellow in the Communication Aids & Systems Clinic (CASC) at the Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison. They provide specialized support in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) across the lifespan.

Gabriel Ramos is a graduate student in speech-language pathology at San José State University. He holds an MA in Translation and Linguistic Services from the University of Porto and a BS in Language Studies from UC Santa Cruz. His interests include multilingual communication, culturally responsive practice, AAC, aphasia, and apraxia.

Alyssa Arballo is a graduate student in speech-language pathology at San José State University. She has aphasia and bilingual service experience. *She graduated* cum laude *from San Diego State University in 2025 with a BA in Speech and Hearing Sciences.* Her interests include early intervention, bilingualism, and pediatric feeding disorders.

Maritza Gutierrez is a graduate student in speech-language pathology at San José State University. She holds a BA in Communicative Disorders and Science from California State University, Los Angeles, a minor in Child Development, and a SLPA license. Her interests include AAC, autism, apraxia, aphasia, and culturally responsive multilingual services

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:
Discover how to create and customize Contextual Supports, personalized visual and contextual scenes designed specifically to support people with aphasia. Review the evidence-base for aphasia-friendly design elements, the benefits of personalization and visual scenes for PWA, and determine the elements of an effective contextual scene. Next, walk through a bilingual Korean case study and the AAC design considerations made through a culturally responsive lens. Access to the toolkit on Contextual Supports will be shared at the end of the presentation.

MODERATED BY: Wendy Quach

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SLPs who are USSAAC/ISAAC members may have their participation in this webinar reported for ASHA CEUs at no charge. Non-members must pay a $25 reporting fee.

This course is offered for 0.10 ASHA CEUs (Instructional level-various; Professional area).

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Identify 5 design elements that support people with aphasia.
2. Determine elements of an effective contextual scene based on EPIC criteria.
3. State 3 ways to personalize a contextual support for a person with aphasia.

TIME ORDERED AGENDA:

5 minutes: Introduction of Speakers, USSAAC and topic
5 minutes: Review of Design Elements Supporting People with Aphasia
5 minutes: From Visual Scene to Contextual Support
5 minutes: Personalization of Supports for PWA
5 minutes: Bilingual Korean Case Study Overview
15 minutes: Cultural Responsive Vocabulary Considerations
15 minutes: AAC Design Considerations
5 minutes Q & A

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) CEUs in speech-language pathology and audiology are awarded by the ASHA CE Registry upon receipt of the CEU Participant Form from the ASHA Approved CE Provider, USSAAC. CEU Participant Forms are available online at Registration or via the QR Code displayed during the presentation. ASHA CEUs are provided to full registrations. This program is offered for .10 ASHA CEUs (Introductory Level, Professional Area). Participants must stay for the entire presentation and complete the questionnaire at the end of the webinar.

ASHA Disclosures:

Speakers
Financial:
Rebecca Urata is a salaried employee of Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Maritza Gutierrez is a classified employee at Cucamonga School District
Gabriel Ramos, Alyssa Arballo and Heidi Vasquez have no Financial Disclosures to report.

Nonfinancial:
Rebecca Urata has no Nonfinancial disclosures to report.
Maritza Guitierrez, Gabriel Ramos, and Alyssa Arballo are full-time graduate students at San Jose State University

Moderator:
Financial:
Wendy Quach is an Associate Professor, Communicative Disorders & Sciences, San Jose State University and Director, Project AACES, Project Tapestry, Project EPICS.

Nonfinancial:
Wendy Quach is a member of the USSAAC Education Committee.

To register for this Webinar please go to the following link:

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https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7lPMk8XhS2iIxR2A3XeBZg

PLEASE NOTE: Only the first 150 attendees to log into the webinar will be guaranteed spots.

USSAAC EDUCATION COMMITTEE:
Amy Bereiter, Betsy Caporale, Kate DeJarnette, Nicole Gallagher, Richard Hurtig, Wendy Quach, Sharon Redmon

about USSAAC

The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) is the national chapter of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC). As the United States' only non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the entire AAC community, USSAAC provides an invaluable role, working to ensure that individuals who could benefit from AAC have access to the technology and services they need.

Benefits of membership include, but are not limited to:

- *Free access to USSAAC webinar series with ASHA CEUs and USSAAC Twitter chats*
- *Advocacy for maintaining & expanding access to AAC systems and services*
- *Discount to ISAAC Conferences*
- *SpeakUp publication/Blog*
- *Information updates on USSAAC website, social platforms and member finder*
- *Membership in ISAAC with their additional benefits*

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