

Using Picture Books to Enhance Communication Skills for Students who use AAC

May 27, 2026
7:00-8:00 p.m. EDT

PRESENTED BY:
Jane L. Gebers and Betsy Caporale



ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

Jane L Gebers, M.A., SLP has been a practicing speech-language pathologist for over 50 years, working primarily with the pediatric population. Her first book, *Books Are for Talking, Too! A Sourcebook for Using Children's Literature in Speech-Language Remediation*, was published in 1990. As research expanded and continued to validate the uses of children's literature in speech, language, and literacy, she authored three updated editions. She has been an adjunct professor at St. Mary's College Moraga, where she taught courses in Language Development, Assessment and Intervention, and a visiting lecturer and presenter at other Bay Area colleges. She has a private practice in Northern California and continues to update her website page, *Book Talk*, where she provides a lesson plan with a Picture Book Selection of the Month. This page provides viewers with multiple possibilities to support children's literacy and communication skills using a popular, low-text picture book.

Betsy Caporale, M.S., CCC-SLP has worked in the field of AAC/AT for over 30 years. She earned her Competency Certificate in Communication Assistive Technology Applications from The National Association of State Directors of Special Education and an Assistive Technology Specialty Certificate in Communication Services from the University of South Florida. While working for the California Department of Education she developed and taught an AAC Assessment and Services Certification Course, certifying over 200 SLPs in educational settings. Betsy is the owner of *Augmentative Communication Solutions, LLC*, which supports students with complex communication and learning needs in school districts throughout California. She currently serves as the Director of Professional Affairs for USSAAC.

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION: Picture books are an excellent tool for promoting interaction and facilitating communication, particularly for individuals who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). This session will focus on using classic picture books to enhance communication and literacy skills for students with complex communication needs, incorporating the use of AAC tools and strategies to target key areas such as phonological awareness, vocabulary development, sentence formulation, problem-solving, and pragmatic language. During the webinar, presenters will demonstrate joint reading techniques with AAC users across various ages and skill levels. Practical resources to guide in the implementation of these strategies will be provided and research supporting the use of picture books to develop communication skills will be shared.

MODERATED BY: Nicole Gallagher

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 (Introductory level; Professional area).

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Describe 3 ways picture books can be used to enhance communication skills.
2. Identify 3 features to look for when selecting a picture book to support communication skills.
3. Cite relevant research regarding the use of picture books to enhance communication for students of all ages.
4. Explain how picture books can be implemented with students who use AAC.
5. Define specific communication skill sets that can be targeted using picture books.

TIME ORDERED AGENDA:

- 5 minutes: Introduction of Speakers, USSAAC and topic
- 5 minutes: The Power of Picture Books
- 10 minutes: Research supporting the use of Picture Books
- 10 minutes: Picture Books and AAC
- 15 minutes: Demonstration of Joint Reading Techniques using Picture Books, Implementing AAC
- 10 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:

Jane L. Gebers is the author of *Books are Talking Too* and the owner of SoundingYourBest.com, her website for Speech and Voice Therapy, including special pages entitled *Book Talk*.

Betsy Caporale is the owner of Augmentative Communication Solutions, LLC.

Nonfinancial:

Betsy Caporale is a USSAAC board member and chairs the Education Committee.

Jane L. Gebers has no nonfinancial disclosures to report.

Moderator:

Financial:

Nicole Gallagher is a full-time salaried employee for the state of CT in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at the University of Connecticut.

Nonfinancial:

Nicole Gallagher is a member of the USSAAC Education Committee.

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

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_23DJff2aQeO2R2ATscltLQ

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, Michelle Phillipy, 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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