

COLLABORATING WITH CLASSROOM STAFF FOR AAC USE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DAY

0.1 ASHA ETHICS CEU and 1 Act 48 PDH

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CARRIE IS EMPLOYED BY PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY AS AN ACADEMIC AND CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR. SHE TEACHES THE AAC COURSE AND MAKES AAC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUR CLIENTS IN THE ON-CAMPUS CLINIC. ADDITIONALLY, SHE IS ALSO A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR FOR ENGAGE KIDZ FOR WHOM WHERE SHE WORKS AS AN AAC CONSULTANT IN AREA SCHOOLS.

Learning Objectives:

- State ethical responsibility of SLP to be an effective consultant in the classroom regarding AAC use.
- Describe interprofessional collaboration between SLP and special educator to promote increased AAC use throughout the school day.
- Identify specific core word opportunities throughout the classroom routine and daily schedule that will promote AAC use in the routine that is already occurring throughout the school day.



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This talk outlines current research regarding speech-language pathologist and special educator collaboration to promote successful AAC use in life skills and autism support classrooms. Ethical responsibilities regarding the SLP as the AAC expert, or the disseminator of information and skills, will be highlighted. Strategies will be provided to empower SLPs to be better consultants in the classroom to encourage other classroom staff to be consistent AAC modelers. Strategies will be provided to better incorporate AAC into the routine of the school day, and to make AAC planning less daunting for classroom staff. Focus will be on incorporating core word use to ensure repeated opportunities for AAC use throughout the school day for our earliest communicators through all of school-age.

Speaker's Bio: Carrie Van Soest comes to Pennsylvania Western University after more than 20 years as a clinical pediatric speech/language pathologist. She is an academic and clinical instructor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders department. Her passion for pediatric communication disorders is evident in her work with young children in our on-campus speech and language clinic in California, PA, and in the classroom as an undergraduate and graduate instructor. Carrie's areas of expertise include childhood apraxia of speech, autism spectrum disorder, augmentative/alternative communication methods, stuttering, cochlear implants, and selective mutism. She is a regular presenter at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, area conferences, and school-district trainings. She has presented on pediatric topics such as treating children with cochlear implants, stuttering and cluttering, selective mutism, and AAC use in group therapy and in the classroom.