

presents a course by

Jill E. Senner, PhD, CCC-SLP and Matthew R. Baud, MS, CCC-SLP

## Best Practices in AAC Assessment: Steps to Selecting Appropriate Communication Systems



### Date & Location:

Friday, November 5th, 2021  
Hybrid: Webinar & In-Person:  
at  
Easterseals DuPage &  
Fox Valley  
830 S. Addison Ave.  
Villa Park, IL 60181

### Course Description:

When a child isn't speaking or when speech doesn't meet all of his or her communication needs across environments, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) may be appropriate. However, there are literally hundreds of apps, speech generating devices, low-tech, and no-tech strategies available to help children who are unable to communicate effectively using their speech. Selection of an inappropriate system can lead to limited success or in some cases, system abandonment. How does one ensure selection of an appropriate communication system? With a feature-matching AAC assessment!

In this interactive, beginner-level, full-day workshop, participants will be provided with an overview of the AAC assessment process, learn about different access methods, see a variety of assessment instruments appropriate for individuals with complex communication needs (CCN), participate in interactive labs, watch video models, and problem-solve case studies. Report writing, funding, and strategies for conducting remote assessments will also be demonstrated.

**Target audience:** This course will be of interest to Speech-Language Pathologists working with children with complex communication needs.

### Contact Info:

Phone: 630-261-6191

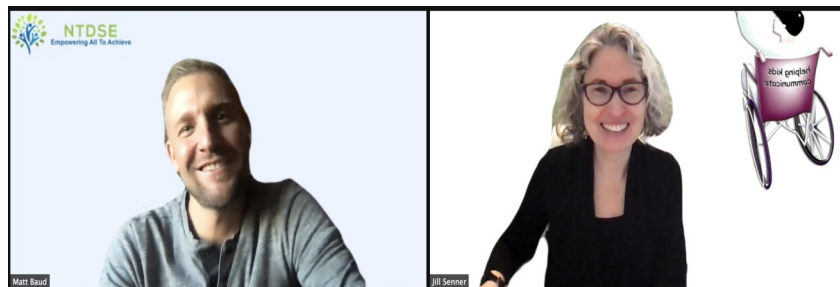
Email: [ce@EasterSealsDFVR.org](mailto:ce@EasterSealsDFVR.org)

[www.eastersealsdfvr.org/continuingeducation](http://www.eastersealsdfvr.org/continuingeducation)

### About the Instructors:

**Jill E. Senner, PhD, CCC-SLP** is a speech-language pathologist with over 20 years of experience working with children with complex communication needs. She is the owner/director of Technology and Language Center where she specializes in providing augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and assistive technology (AT) services including assessment, consultation and training, and workshops/lectures. Dr. Senner has presented at numerous national assistive technology conferences and has taught graduate courses in AAC and swallowing disorders. She has published research in the areas of AAC, siblings and disability, and swallowing disorders in cerebral palsy.

**Disclosure Statement:** Dr. Senner has the following financial relationship to disclose: she receives a fee for speaking from Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley. She has no relevant nonfinancial relationships to disclose.



**Matthew R. Baud, MS, CCC-SLP**, has been working with AAC for over 15 years. He currently is the Assistive Technology Coordinator at Niles Township District for Special Education (NTDSE) performing evaluations, trainings and coaching communication partners. Matthew also has his own AAC private practice working with individuals with complex communication needs from birth through adulthood. He is an adjunct professor at Saint Xavier University where he teaches a graduate course in AAC and has presented at national and state conferences. Matthew has published research in the areas of AAC.

**Disclosure Statement:** Matthew Baud has the following financial relationship to disclose: he receives a fee for speaking from Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley. He has no relevant nonfinancial relationships to disclose.

## **Course Schedule:**

8:00-8:15 Collecting a Comprehensive Case History  
8:15-9:15 Evaluating Speech and Language in Children with Complex Communication Needs  
9:15-9:45 Remote Assessment Considerations  
9:45-10:00 Lab – Language Sampling in AAC  
10:00-10:15 Break  
10:15-11:15 Evaluating Access in Children with Physical Impairments  
11:15-11:45 Demonstration – Motor Access in AAC  
11:45-12:45 Lunch  
12:45-1:45 Feature Matching in AAC  
1:45-2:15 Remote Trials with AAC Systems  
2:15-2:30 Break  
2:30-3:00 Case Studies  
3:00-3:15 Funding AAC Systems  
3:15-3:45 Report Writing for AAC Funding Sources  
3:45-4:00 Reflection, Resources & References, Question & Answer  
4:00 Dismiss

**6.5 Contact Hours**

**Level of learning: Introductory level**

## **Learning Objectives:**

**Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:**

- \* Participants will list four communication assessment tools appropriate for children with complex communication needs.
- \* Participants will identify three alternate access methods for children with physical impairments who cannot point or touch icons with a finger.
- \* Participants will describe at least four features that should be matched to the child when selecting a speech generating device (SGD).
- \* Participants will name at least three funding sources for SGDs.

## COVID PROTOCOL:

Easterseals DuPage and Fox Valley will continue to practice all current state and federal Covid guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Kim Sydello at, ce@EasterSealsDFVR.org.

### Continuing Education Credits

**Early Intervention credits have been applied for.**

All participants will receive a course completion certificate upon successful completion of the conference. No certificates will be awarded until course completion is verified on the final date of the conference.

#### Speech Therapy:



**ASHA CE  
APPROVED PROVIDER**

Easterseals DuPage & Fox  
Valley

Introductory Level  
.65 ASHA CEUs

Lodging: A special rate at The Hyatt Place Lombard is available if you mention that you are taking a course at Easterseals DuPage.

2340 South Fountain Square Drive in Lombard, IL  
P:630.932.6501

**Special Accommodations:** Please notify us of any special accommodations you may have by contacting us at 630.261.6191.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and mail  
with payment to:  
Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley  
Continuing Education Department  
830 South Addison Avenue  
Villa Park, IL 60181  
FAX: 630.620.1148

**\*HYBRID\***

**Registration Fee: \$215**

**Early Registration Fee: \$200 on or before 10/8/2021**

**\*\*10% discount for groups of 4 or more from the same facility  
(Registrations must be sent in together; please contact the CE  
department before sending)**

**Please Check one:**

In Person

Webinar

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(This is how your name will be printed on the course completion  
certificate.)

**Title/Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Org. address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Registration fee includes the conference, continental breakfast, and  
afternoon refreshments. An opportunity to order lunch during registra-  
tion is offered, cash is preferred.

*Space is limited— early registration is encouraged.* Registration dead-  
line: October 22nd, 2021.

Register On-line: [http://www.easterseals.com/dfv/our-programs/  
employment-training/continuing-education.html](http://www.easterseals.com/dfv/our-programs/employment-training/continuing-education.html)

Cancellations must be in writing and will incur a \$25 processing fee. No  
refunds granted after October 22nd, 2021. If Easterseals or Speaker  
should need to cancel, course fees will be refunded or transferred to  
another course at the discretion of the participant.

**AAC 11.21**