

# February 2010 Workshops from AT:LAST, Inc.

## What Are the Options When You Can't Speak? An Overview of Augmentative Communication Strategies and Systems

*February 24, 2010: 9:45 am to 1:45 pm (\$67 Members / \$79 non-Members)*

If you think "there must be a better way" for individuals who can't speak to make their needs and thoughts known, to communicate their self-determination wishes, to be an active participant at home, at school or work, and in the community – then this introductory workshop will familiarize you with the options. Attendees will leave with a solid understanding of the different categories of devices and their application to the populations they serve. You will understand why there is no such thing as "one size fits all" when it comes to augmentative communication systems and strategies – and what needs to be considered in finding the right match.

### Target Audience

This introductory workshop is for special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, parents, service coordination teams, and other support persons who work with individuals with communication impairments. Populations to be discussed include beginning communicators (birth-3) through children and young adults with mild to severe cognitive and/or physical disabilities.

### Description of Experience

This workshop will introduce both the novice and those with some Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) experience to SETT (Student/Environment/Tasks/Tools) Framework procedures for identifying needs, access and mobility considerations, cognitive considerations, and general language goals of end users. This session will provide an overview of the vast array of augmentative communication/speech generating devices on the market today. Participants will learn the important distinctions between static and dynamic displays, digital vs. synthesized voices, and integrated vs. "stand alone devices." The continuum of no-tech, low-tech, mid-tech, and high-tech devices will be highlighted. Attendees will be introduced to functional charts which help them understand both the device categories as well as which devices fall in to those categories. Attendees will leave with a solid understanding of the different categories of devices and their application to the populations they serve.

### Learning Objectives

- Categorize speech-generating devices by features and functions
- discuss general and SETT strategies for determining appropriate communication systems
- discuss how an appropriate/inappropriate AAC system can help or hinder an individuals communication success
- identify individuals who would benefit from an AAC system
- identify the appropriate professional with whom to proceed for an evaluation procedure