

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Education 374-3

Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Summer Session, 1990

Instructor: Susan Blockberger

M T W R F S

8:30-12:30

July 16-25, 1990

Location: Jericho Hill School

Prerequisite: Certified Practicing Teacher

Course Description:

Basic terminology and key concepts
A definition of communicative competence for the AAC user

Components of AAC systems:

Symbol sets
access techniques
feedback characteristics

Examples of AAC systems:

unaided
aided non-technical
aided "low tech"
aided "high tech"

Technology and AAC:

new developments
advantages/disadvantages
evaluation of technology
examples of "high tech" devices

Considerations in assessment:

present communication system
communication needs
barriers to participation
characteristics and skills of the child
characteristics of the environment
ideal vs most feasible system

Considerations in intervention:

factors affecting likelihood of communication
selection of goals
the vocabulary challenge
technical vs functional competence
facilitator training
literacy and AAC

AAC and education:

communication to foster classroom participation
communication to foster learning/academic goals
communicative competence in "real life" - an educational goal

Sociocommunicative considerations:

attitudes toward disabilities
attitudes toward AAC users
self-image and self esteem

Considerations with specific populations:

the preintentional communicator
the autistic child
the visually impaired child
the walking nontalking child
the academically competitive child

Models of service delivery:

options
service delivery in Canada
service delivery in B.C.

Participant Evaluation:

All students enrolled in this course will be required to complete one take-home project and one exam covering the conceptual, clinical, and technical information presented in the course.