

**Eastern Illinois University  
Communication Disorders and Sciences &  
East Central Illinois Speech–Language–Hearing Association  
Fall 2022 Autism Conference**

**ASD & AAC: THE CLASSROOM TEACHER AND THE SLP**



**Trina Becker, M.S., CCC/SLP  
Jennifer Buchter, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

**Where:** Eastern Illinois University  
Grand Ballroom

**When:** Friday, October 21  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Fee:** Professionals -\$60.00  
Families - \$30.00  
Students - FREE

**Registration:** <https://commerce.cashnet.com/eiucds1>  
Or contact Felicia Magee at  
[fymagee@eiu.edu](mailto:fymagee@eiu.edu) or (217) 581-2712

**Description**

Children with autism who are minimally verbal or have difficulty using speech to effectively and efficiently communicate are often good candidates for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). But it's not just about finding and obtaining an AAC system for the child and working on communication in the speech therapy room. The key to establishing the AAC system as a reliable method of communication, increasing the child's participation across environments, and improving overall communication lies in a collaborative team approach to intervention. You are invited to learn from a speech-language-pathologist (SLP) and classroom teacher about finding the right AAC system, writing attainable goals, embedding communication opportunities throughout a child's school day, and implementing strategies for developing communication skills.

**Agenda**

8:30-8:45	What is AAC and why are children with autism good candidates?
8:45-9:00	AAC Solutions – from no tech to high tech
9:00-9:15	Categories of AAC communicators/stages of symbolic language development in children with autism
9:15-10:45	The emerging communicator – establishing pre-linguistic skills, play skills and symbolic language
10:45-11:30	Creating communication opportunities – during play and in the classroom
11:30-1:00	Lunch on our own and AAC device browsing session
1:00-2:15	The functional communicator – expanding communication skills beyond requesting, teaching functional communication, vocabulary development
2:15-3:15	Creating communication opportunities – during play, social, literacy, and academic activities
3:15-3:30	Q&A

**Learning Outcomes**

After attending this conference participants will be able to:

1. Explain why children with ASD are good candidates for AAC and options for AAC solutions.
2. Describe categories of AAC communicators.
3. Select strategies for teaching pre-linguistic skills, symbolic language, and functional communication.
4. Embed communication opportunities throughout a child's school day including play, literacy, and other academic activities.

Disclosure:

*Financial: Jennifer Buchter will receive an honorarium for the presentation.*

*Nonfinancial: Jennifer Buchter is a faculty member at Eastern Illinois University*

*Financial: Trina Becker will receive an honorarium for the presentation. She has intellectual property rights and receives royalties from B&B Boutique and B&B SLP Teachers Pay Teachers Store.*

*Nonfinancial: Trina Becker is a faculty member at Eastern Illinois University.*



**ASHA CE  
APPROVED PROVIDER**

Illinois  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

**Intermediate  
.55 ASHA CEUS**