Today's Webinar

✴ Understand how writing supports conversation and social interaction
✴ Learn simple writing strategies to support your individual with Angelman to tell their stories

Writing as Communication

Things I Like

I like to ride in cars outside.

I like to walk around the city.
I like to take baths.

I like to ride my tricycle.

I went to Malibu.

I put on my wet suit.

I picked my surf board.

Lily Grace’s Surf Day
I surfed the big waves!

I was wiped out!

I got a trophy.

Personal experience stories

Writing is simple…

It only FEELS complicated!

 Shares our person’s personality and interests

Provides the basis for social interaction

Fosters a sense of conversation WITH our person, rather than with us as their facilitator

Writing is just the words we say, written down.
Writing as Communication: Modeling Writing with Things I Like!

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Webinar #11

✴ Supports greater processing time because writing is slower than speaking
✴ Modeling writing can reduce some of the demands of joint attention
✴ Our models of writing provide a slower, more deliberate model of communication
✴ Reading what we write provides repetition

Writing is communication
✴ Slows the process of constructing a message
✴ Leaves a permanent record, therefore increases the focus on the message rather than how to say it
✴ Some students learn to communicate through writing
✴ Ultimately, writing with the alphabet fosters the greatest autonomy in communication

Why does writing matter?
✴ When a story is written down, we can focus on reading what we wrote rather than constructing it.
✴ The written story is a tool that our person can use to tell their story.
✴ The written story allows our person to embellish or comment on the story, rather than focusing on getting the facts out.
✴ Written stories highlight who our person is and what matters to them.

Our goal is story-telling
✴ Our most emergent AAC users need to learn that story-telling and conversation is something they can participate in.
✴ Our more experienced AAC users need to learn that they can tell stories, hear stories, comment on stories, and rewrite stories.
✴ Our most experienced AAC users can initiate writing and share their own stories.

Story-telling is essential to AAC users
✴ Story-telling is why communication matters
✴ Story-telling is why communication matters
✴ Story-telling supports social interaction
✴ Story-telling is a tool that our person can use to initiate story-telling.

Writing is communication
✴ Supports social interaction
✴ Writing down our stories supports social interaction
✴ Story-telling is why communication matters
My Winter Holidays
or
My Summer Holidays
or
My Christmas Holidays
or
Something Different

I went to ...
I did ...
I saw ...
I got ...
I liked ...
I went to ...

My Christmas Holidays
or
My Summer Holidays
or
My Winter Holidays
Remnant books: pair words with photos and other tangible clues associated with an experience.

No more!

5 sentence summaries of a personal experience...

It was...
Select your tool

- Paper: construction, cardstock
- Durability: lamination, page protectors
- Digital: computer, iPad
- Software: PowerPoint, Word, Keynote
- Apps: Pictello

Instructional framework

- Mastery: Alone: What will YOU (the student) do
  - Use the skill for functional, personally meaningful purposes

- Participation: With: What will WE (together) do
  - Scaffold the person to imitate, explore, and participate, with your support and encouragement

- Awareness: To or For: What will I (the teacher) do
  - Provide a model for the person to become aware of and observe without any expectation of participation or performance

How to write stories:

Invite your person to participate
Choosing a message

1. Choose a topic

2. Set a topic

3. Model writing the message with AAC

4. Share with the student's AAC

5. Choose writing

6. Then transcribing to paper

7. Model and create opportunities to read

8. Rate & timing of message delivery

9. Vocabulary constraints

Dr. Caroline Ramsey Musselwhite

www.aacintervention.com

Research Highlights

- Rare and brief
- Peer-to-peer interactions
- Unusual
- Turn-taking patterns
- Responsive role

8 Maintaining Topics?

Have Trouble Starting

Why Do AAC Users
Possible Next Steps:

- Interview your person to participate as much as possible.
- Model writing.
- Laminate? Scrap for compost?
- Select a tool for writing? Paper and photos?

Observe what questions people are asking your person right now: the ones that come up repeatedly.

Possible answers on back:

1) Guess where I went?
   a) The zoo
   b) The movies
   c) The circus

2) Guess who with?
   a) Mommy
   b) Nana & Grande
   c) Aunt Cindy

3) Tightrope Walker
   a) Nana & Grande
   b) The movies
   c) The circus

Make A Holiday Card ‘Book’

Idea from Dr. Gretchen Hanser

Use pics for an Alphabet Book

Recycle Holiday Cards:

- Typing paper
- Construction paper
- Holiday card
- Cable ties

Possible next steps:

- Observe what questions people are asking your person right now: the ones that come up repeatedly.
- Select a tool for writing: paper and photos?
- Model writing.
- Invite your person to participate as much as possible.

Possible answers on back:

1) Guess where I went?
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3) Tightrope Walker
   a) Nana & Grande
   b) The movies
   c) The circus

Idea from Dr. Gretchen Hanser

- Lock of hair
- Bulletins
- Napkins
- Postcards
- Ticket stubs

Save Remnants
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Questions?