

CONTINUING EDUCATION PRESENTS:

COMMUNICATION PARTNER INSTRUCTION IN AAC

SMoRRes and Partner Augmented Input

Format: Live Webinar

February 27-28, 2026

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



Audience:

Speech-language pathologists, Occupational therapists, teachers, instructional assistants, and other professionals who work with children using AAC, as well as for parents and caregivers of children using AAC

Hosted by:

Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley
830 S. Addison Ave
Villa Park, IL 60181



Course Credits: 6 Contact Hours
each day

Course Summary

Learn the evidence-based benefits and receive a comprehensive overview of partner-augmented input (PAI).

Continuing Education Credits

Early Intervention credits have been requested for 6 contact hours per day. 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.



Introductory Level

1.2 ASHA CEUs/ .6 each day



Instructors Bios:

Jill E. Senner, PhD, CCC-SLP is an ASHA certified and state licensed speech-language pathologist with over 20 years of experience working with children with complex communication needs. She is the owner and director of Technology and Language Center where she specializes in providing augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) services via telepractice. Dr. Senner has presented over one hundred lectures on AAC topics online and around the world, has published research articles and textbook chapters on AAC, and is an adjunct professor of speech-language pathology.

Matthew R. Baud, MS, CCC-SLP, is an ASHA certified and state licensed speech-language pathologist who 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 professor¹ 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.

COMMUNICATION PARTNER INSTRUCTION IN AAC SMORRES AND PARTNER AUGMENTED INPUT

Course Description

Evidence-based research supports the use of partner-augmented input (PAI), also known as aided language modeling, as an intervention strategy for individuals who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). There are multiple benefits of modeling AAC use, but how can this be done effectively across a child's many environments? All of a child's communication partners must be taught how to model on the child's speech-generating device (SGD) to create an immersion environment for learning the new language!

Day 1 (required*) is an introductory SMoRRES® level 1 session appropriate for all communication partners including speech-language pathologists, teachers, instructional assistants, and other professionals who work with children using AAC, as well as for parents and caregivers of children using AAC. Participants will set goals for the training, learn why modeling is so important, verbally rehearse the steps to successful modeling, see videos of modeling in the classroom and home, and practice modeling. NOTE: A communication device, app, emulation software, book or board is required to participate in a variety of interactive, hands on training activities designed for learning and improving modeling skills. * Day 1 is a prerequisite for day 2.

Day 2 (optional) is an intermediate, SMoRRES® level 2 session organized to teach team leaders, AAC/AT specialists, and SLPs the skills needed to implement the SMoRRES® Training Program. Participants will learn the steps involved in implementing the communication partner training program with fidelity and will be provided with a DVD, PowerPoint, and a manual to enable them to employ the program in their own schools or practices.

* Day 1 is a prerequisite for day 2. Participants who have already attended a full-day SMoRRESTM Level 1 Training (see below for a list of qualifying workshops) may waive registration for day 1 by submitting a course completion certificate.

SMoRRESTM Level 1 Trainings:

- Ingredients to Successful Modeling: SMoRRESTM and Partner-Augmented
- Partner-Augmented Input: Modeling AAC in the Classroom.
- Communication Partner Instruction in Partner-Augmented Input: 8 Steps to Success Day 1

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, participants should be able to:

Day 1

- List three benefits of providing partner-augmented input, as it relates to improving participation in daily activities (e.g. ADLs, IADLs, play, academic participation).
- Describe the 6 steps involved in successful modeling.
- Demonstrate the ability to produce words and phrases on a speech-generating device.

Day 2

- List three benefits of providing partner-augmented input, as it relates to improving participation in daily activities (e.g. ADLs, IADLs, play, academic participation).
- Summarize eight components of successful communication partner training programs.
- Name data collection strategies to monitor partner and child progress.

Course Schedule

Friday, February 27 (6 Contact Hours)

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday, February 28 (6 Contact Hours)

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

DAY 1	Contact Hours: 6.0
8:00AM-8:30AM	Registration & Check-In
8:30AM—8:45AM	Commitment to Instructional Program
8:45AM—9:45AM	Partner Augmented Input (PAI) - Strategy Description
9:45AM—10:00AM	Strategy Demonstration
10:00AM—10:15AM	Break
10:15AM—10:30AM	Verbal Practice
10:30AM—10:45AM	Lab —PAI Observation
10:45AM—11:30AM	Lab —Controlled Practice
11:30AM—12:00PM	Lab —Parallel Talk I
12:00PM—1:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM—1:15PM	Lab— Parallel Talk II
1:15PM—1:45PM	Descriptive Teaching/Talking
1:45PM—2:30PM	Lab —Descriptive Teaching/Talking
2:30PM—2:45	Break
2:45—3:30PM	Lab —Wordless Picture Books
3:30PM—3:45PM	Lab —Wordless Videos
3:45PM—4:00PM	Resources & References, Question & Answer
4:00-	Dismiss

DAY 2	Contact Hours: 6.0
8:00AM—8:30AM	Registration & Check-In
8:30AM—8:40 AM	Reflection
8:40 AM—8:50AM	Verbal Practice
8:50AM—9:30AM	The Importance of Communication Partners Across Environments
9:30AM—10:15 AM	Instructional Program for Communication Partners-Introduction and Overview
10:15 AM— 10:30 AM	Break
10:30AM—11:00AM	Coaching Communication Partners
11:00AM-11:15 AM	Controlled Practice in Coaching
11:15-12:00 EBP—	The Evidence Behind using the SMOIRES® Training Program
12:00 PM—1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00—1:30 PM	Forms & Training Materials- Calendar, Data Sheets
1:30PM—2:00PM	Data Collection in Children: Language Sampling in AAC (TALC)
2:00PM— 2:30 PM	Controlled Practice—Language Sampling in AAC
2:30 PM—2:45PM	Break
2:45—3:15 PM	Lab—Language Sampling in AAC
3:15 PM—3:30 PM	Data Collection: Lab— Evaluating Partner Effectiveness
3:30PM—3:45 PM	Variations
3:45PM—4:00	Wrap-up, Question & Answer
4:00-	Dismiss

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

Professional Course Fee: \$450
(Early registration on or before 2/13/26: \$430)

Day 1 Only Rate: \$250

Parent of a child who uses AAC Day 1 Only: \$99

Name:

(This is how your name will be printed on the course certificate)

Title/Position:

E-mail:

Organization:

Org. address:

City:

State: _____ Zip: _____

Business Phone:

For credit card payment, please complete:
Type (please circle): Visa, MasterCard, AmEx,
Discover
Credit Card #:

Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____

Billing address:

City:

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home/Cell phone:

Space is limited— early registration is encouraged.

Registration deadline: February 20, 2026.

Cancellations must be in writing and will incur a \$50 processing fee. No refunds granted after February 13, 2026. If Easterseals or speaker should need to cancel, course fees will be refunded or transferred to another course at the discretion of the participant.