



Transitioning from PECS to Speech Generating Devices (SGDs)

Presented by Jill M. Waegenare, M.A., CCC-SLP

When: Sunday, January 29, 2023

What time: From 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. with a one hour lunch and two 15 minute breaks (registration from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.)

Where: ChildServe Training Center - Johnston

How long: 6 contact hours

Who can take the course: Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Applied Behavioral Analysis, Autism Team, Medical Childcare, Childcare, teachers, other direct support supervisors or professional that use PECs in their daily job.

About this course:

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS®) is an evidence-based protocol that teaches vital communication skills such as initiation, persistence in relaying messages, picture discrimination and basic sentence structure. After mastery of these skills, the child/young adult likely has a large repertoire of pictures in the communication book. If the child/young adult is not speaking, the team may need to transition to a dedicated Speech Generating Device (SGD) or tablet with communication app that will accommodate larger vocabularies and allow for continued language development. To ensure the rapid transfer of existing communication skills, the transition will require the team to assess current PECS skills and then analyze features of various apps/SGDs to select a device that will best meet the child/young adult's needs. Following device selection, detailed lesson plans are necessary to teach use of the new device as a functional communication system. This workshop is appropriate for teams supporting children/young adults who may be ready to transition from PECS to SGDs or who are not currently using their devices effectively.

Learning Objectives:

1. Recall the PECS protocol
2. Identify the challenges faced by children/young adults with complex communication needs
3. Understand the procedures for analyzing current PECS skills
4. Identify whether or not child/young adult is ready to transition from PECS to SGDs
5. List the five criteria for appropriate device selection
6. Ability to prepare the child/young adult for the transition
7. Use elements of the PECS protocol to teach functional SGD use
8. Problem-solve SGD use



Must take Level One PECS Training course before eligible to take this course.

*Please bring an SGD or a tablet with an Augmentative and alternative communication app to the training to use during a variety of activities.