

Summer 2014



DR. SHAMEKA JOHNSON., PH.D., CCC-SLP

# ALL THINGS A.A.C CAMP

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The A.A.C camp is a one week intensive camp designed to address the augmentative and alternative communication development of non-verbal children.

Camp will run Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:00 AM .

Each day, campers will work with an A.A.C strategy designed to enhance their ability to functionally communicate their wants and needs.

Areas that the camp will address include:

**.Utilizing an AAC system: Ipad or Communication Cards or Picture Exchange System (PECS)**

### A. Core Vocabulary

The main words that are consistent across cultures, populations, and genders.

The camper will work on identifying and recognizing these words to help them in communicating.

### B. Asking Questions with Vocabulary

The camper will work on using targeted vocabulary to ask appropriate questions using their device or other AAC strategy.

### C. Expand "I Want.." Request

The camper will begin to progress in their ability to request items using other terms.

### D. Building Utterances/ Direct Communication

The camper will work on increasing communication from one word responses and requests to two-three word responses and requests.

### E. Developing and programming my Child's Communication System

## What is ?...

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### Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC):

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) includes all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas.

People with severe speech or language problems rely on AAC to supplement existing speech or replace speech that is not functional. Special augmentative aids, such as picture and symbol communication boards and electronic devices, are available to help people express themselves. This may increase social interaction, school performance, and feelings of self-worth.

When children or adults cannot use speech to communicate effectively in all situations, there are options.

**Unaided communication systems** – rely on the user's body to convey messages. Examples include gestures, body language, and/or sign language.

**Aided communication systems** – require the use of tools or equipment in addition to the user's body. Methods can range from paper and pencil to communication books or boards to devices that produce voice output (speech generating devices or SGD's) and/or written output. Electronic communication aids allow the user to use picture symbols, letters, and/or words and phrases to create messages. Some devices can be programmed to produce different spoken languages.

**What is a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS):**

PECS is commonly used as a communication assistive device for children considered to be non-verbal or without functional speech who may have impairments such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as being used with a wide variety of learners, from preschoolers to adults, who have various communicative, cognitive, and physical impairments, including cerebral palsy, blindness, and deafness.

PECS is a structured assistive technology method that takes the individual through six phases of learning how to independently communicate and express their wants and needs.

PECS comes with also training the individual's caregivers and teachers on how to effectively and actively implement the phases.

**IPad and Ipad Applications for Communication:**

Using Ipad and its applications to enhance, supplement or replace verbal communication is a procedure that is rapidly becoming popular within the communication disorders field. With implementation of this method within the camp, specific applications will be downloaded and suggested to the participants' parents and addressed daily within the camp sessions. The individuals found eligible to use this method for communication will receive practice and explicit training with each communication app downloaded to their device.

### **A.A.C CAMP**

Dr. S.N.Johnson., CCC-SLP  
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Communication Specialist  
Multiculturalism Specialist

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*Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.*

*For immediate response after July 9th, please utilize the email address listed.*

***TECHnically Speaking L.L.C***

**[www.technicallyslp.com](http://www.technicallyslp.com)**

## Thank You

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for enrolling your child in this one-week intensive camp.

Providing your child with continued attention and focus to areas that may prove difficult for them is a proactive way of reducing or sometimes eliminating the difficulty altogether.

Please be sure to carry over all activities worked on in the school setting and in this camp at home. Consistency and practice is the key to success.

Try to make every part of the day and all your interactions with your child into a learning opportunity.

Ask them engaging questions, provide them with tasks that will stimulate their cognitive and higher order thinking skills and have fun with it.

Always praise, correct, and encourage your child.

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to working with you again in the future!

S. Johnson., Ph.D., CCC-SLP

