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Tele-AAC with Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Rebecca Eisenberg, MS, CCC-SLP



Speaker Bio

- Rebecca Eisenberg has been a certified speech-language pathologist since 2001. She is also a certified autism specialist and a children's book author.
- She graduated with an MS in Speech-Language Pathology from Teachers College, Columbia University. Rebecca has been working in a variety of contexts since 2001 including day habilitation programs, public and private schools, clinics, group homes, and private homes. She is currently on the tech team at WIHD in Valhalla and consults with schools on how to implement AAC in the classroom and other contexts. Rebecca has been working with adults with DD conducting AAC evaluations and training since she was a graduate student in 2000. She recently became a board certified telepractice specialist through the IBCCES.



- Presenter Disclosure: Financial: Rebecca Eisenberg was paid an honorarium by SpeechPathology.com for this presentation. She has authored books/games/materials related to this topic that are sold on her website as well as other sites, and for which she receives royalties. Nonfinancial: Rebecca is a board-certified telepractice specialist, and has a youtube channel with informational videos about AAC and other related topics.
- Content Disclosure: This learning event does not focus exclusively on any specific product or service.
- Sponsor Disclosure: This course is presented by SpeechPathology.com.



Learning Outcomes

After this course, participants will be able to:

- List 3 types of funding sources that should be available for adults with DD for teletherapy.
- Describe three different ways to model language during teletherapy sessions.
- Identify three age-appropriate non-digital and digital materials to be used during AAC teletherapy therapy with adults with DD.



About the course

- This course explores teletherapy with adults with developmental disabilities that are AAC users. This one-hour course will focus on funding, quick essentials of teletherapy, age- appropriate non-digital materials, and free/paid digital materials that work well for adults with DD.



About Me

- I am a speech language pathologist since 2001. I graduated Teachers College, Columbia University. I have been working in a variety of contexts since 2001 including day habilitation programs, public and private schools, clinics, group home, and private homes.
- I am currently on the tech team at WIHD in Valhalla and consult with schools on how to implement AAC in the classroom. I also work with adults with developmental disabilities and train both individuals, their families and staff on how to implement AAC in their home, program and community.
- My passion is for all ages but a keen interest of mine is working with older students and adults using AAC.
- Speech Language Pathologist, Board Certified Telepractice Specialist and Certified Autism Specialist



Contact info:

- becca@gravitybread.com

Youtube channel:

- https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-VC-d9SJoOS0ZAPnVCX7GV5FSFM_NW-A



Empowerment is key!
Learning after 21 is possible! Focus
on chronological age, not
developmental age!



Age appropriate! Adults are not children, don't use activities for children and treat them like adults.



Image by [Annie Spratt](#) from [Pixabay](#)



There are exceptions when
we can take an interest and
make it more age
appropriate...



What is Tele-AAC?

- “A unique cross-disciplinary clinical service delivery that requires expertise in both telepractice and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC systems)”

Anderson et al., 2012, p.80



Delivery Tele-AAC

- “The delivery of tele-AAC services must be designed to support the unique clinical exchange between the client and the clinician, as well as support high quality and dynamic audio and visual interactions.” (Hall, N., & Boisvert, M. (2014))



Funding of training sessions for Adults with DD

- Each person should check with individual private insurance companies
- Can be covered by the following: Medicaid, Medicare, some private insurances, private pay, other



Scheduling your teletherapy sessions

- Can be scheduled with parents if adult is living at home
- Can be scheduled with parents and group home to help schedule appts
- Can be scheduled directly with group home or day program if applicable
- Sessions are generally at least 21 minutes long (I have 30 minute sessions but this depends on the attention span of client)
- Check with your funding source about any time limits with sessions
- Teletherapy can take places at a variety of environments, you just need a private space that is quiet and free of distractions



Communication Partners

- This is the key to success during a teletherapy session
- Without a strong communication partner, it is very difficult to have a successful teletherapy session



Communication Partners Should:

Know	Know client well and have a good rapport
Be	Be familiar with their AAC system
Have	Have a rapport with the clinician
Understand	Understand the goals and objectives of the session
Understand	Understand prompting and modeling
Respect	Respect privacy of client and their role in teletherapy



What equipment do you need in your teletherapy sessions?

- It's best to be on a desktop computer (not chrome book)
- Web cam, document camera
- Strong internet connection on both ends
- Good audio (on both ends)
- Private quiet space (there shouldn't be anyone else beside the client and their communication partner in the room unless it's a private home)
- Lighting should be appropriate as well (sitting in a dark room on either end isn't good)
- Private and HIPAA compliant connection



Very important!



YOU MUST HAVE A COPY OR A
TEMPLATE OF YOUR CLIENT'S
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AT HOME.



YOU NEED TO HAVE A WAY TO SHARE
YOUR SCREEN TO MODEL AND
TEACH!



Motivation is key!
Follow the lead of
your client and their
interests.



If you don't have your client's page set, app or device.....

Screen

Screen shot the pages so you can add to google slides or power point and model that way...

Download

Download Chat PC Editor (for Touch Chat or Nova Chat devices)

Download

Download LAMP software if using that app...(PASS software)



The Power of Modeling and Aided Language Input for Tele-AAC



What is Aided Language Input?

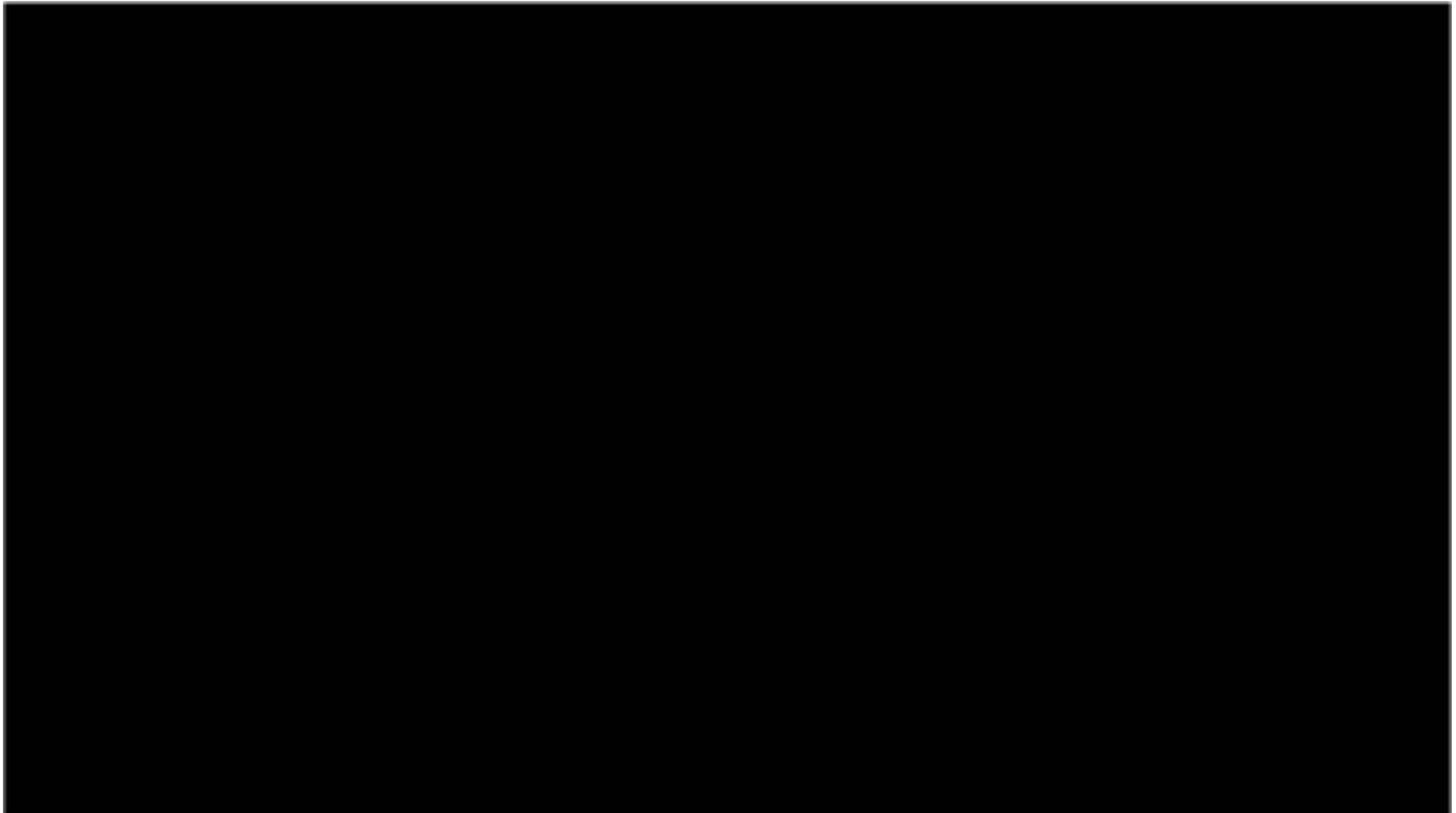


How can we model via tele-AAC?

- We need to be able to share screen when necessary
- We can model with our talker as our client is using their device
- We can model without expectation
- Use annotation or a custom cursor (chrome extension) to model language
- Slow down or speed up depending on your client's abilities



Video to demonstrate



Non-digital free resources

- Conversation is free! Use visual cards to have a structured conversation
- Print out free resources such as the book I am making available to you with this webinar
- Listen to your client's favorite music - Ask them to request music and then comment about the music
- Cooking - Make something in your teletherapy session such as a sandwich or something easy
- Hygiene related activity



More Non-Digital Resources

- Books that are age appropriate such as the books in the next slide from Attainment Company
- Topic Board, Topic Cards
- Age Appropriate puzzle
- Photo Cards
- Bingo Boards (with document camera or send the bingo boards before to print)
- Musical Instruments
- Role Play



Attainment Books



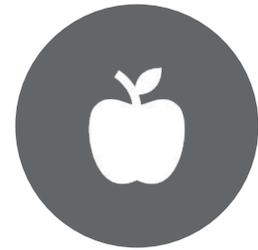
FOCUS ON
FEELINGS



LEARNING TO
WORK



LIVING ON YOUR
OWN SURVIVAL
GUIDE



MAKING
HEALTHY
CHOICES



Topic board



Electronic Therapy Activities



Digital Age Appropriate Materials (Free)

- Cognishine (in Beta version now!)
- Boom Cards (free decks are available everyday)
- Create your own power points with your own pictures
- Ed Puzzle (excellent for embedding questions into youtube videos)
- Trials for limited time (everyday speech, Clicker Writer)
- Youtube videos (see in next few slides)
- Wheel of names



More digital resources (free)

- Youtube videos
- Wheel of names
- Animal web cam (San Diego Zoo)
- Who's making that sound?
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/sound-challenge-wildlife-edition.htm>
- Kindle iCloud Reader (can be free)
- Jam board is free and fun!



Jamboard

- Add your images
- Create sticky notes to create a sentence
- Encourage a story and sequencing
- Encourage commenting and work on communication goals!



Cognishine

- <https://cognishine.com/en/>
- Real photographs and short clips! It's free and very age appropriate for all ages.



Create your own power points!

- Walk around your community and take pictures of community signs and places. Use these pictures to talk about topics such as community, safety, etc.
- Use a copyright free photo website such as Pixabay
- Download free TPT resources

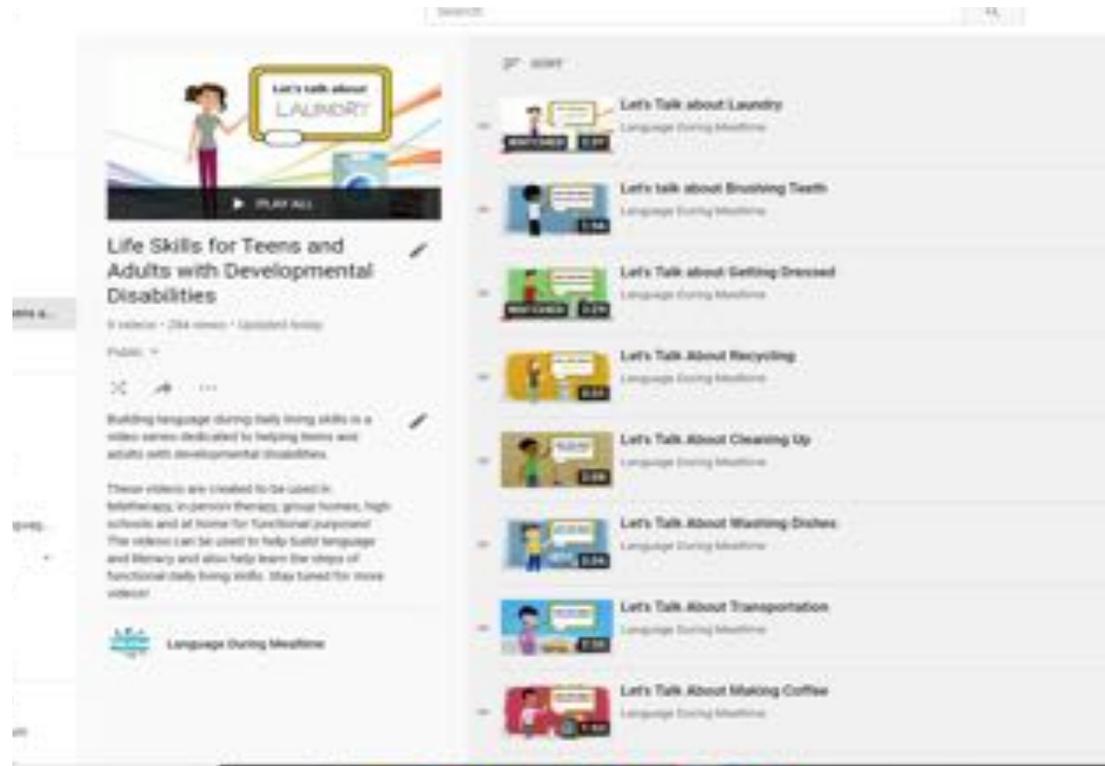


YouTube! Commercials, Autism Goes, Cooking Videos, and more!



I created my own youtube playlist...

- <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-VC-d9SJoOSp6uFb9AEt-BRqFbklq2-o>



Join Teletherapy groups online!

- Tons of free digital resources...check files section!



Digital Resources (Paid)



Photo by [John Guccione www.advergroup.com](http://www.advergroup.com) from [Pexels](https://www.pexels.com/)



Some apps I recommend!

- Community Success
- Read to Learn
- Actions in Video
- Social Success
- Between the Lines
- Everyday Skills
- Can Plan
- Talking Mats



Boom Cards (paid)

- Chalkboard Superhero (life skills boom cards)
- Adulthood Made Easy (great resources)
- TPT (search digital life skills)
- Creating your own boom cards (can be expensive and very time consuming!)



Paid Subscriptions

- Lesson Pix (<https://lessonpix.com/>)
- Can create your own games
- Can create your own visuals
- Access to whole shared library
- Ideas are endless and can be modified to be age appropriate



Other Subscriptions

- <https://www.n2y.com/news-2-you/>
- <https://everydayspeech.com/>
- <https://www.pinkcatgames.com/home>
- <https://www.myboardmaker.com>
- What subscription do you like?



Remember goals!

- Sometimes we get so caught up with an activity with lose sights of our communication goals
- Before beginning a session, set up your computer so it's easier to share and you make the best use of your time



Case Study 1

You set up an appt with a group home with a time that works for everyone. You begin the session and your client gets up and walks away. He refuses to participate and begins to exhibit negative behaviors. What do you do?



Case Study 2

You begin your session with your client and their familiar communication partner. During the session, your client's communication partner is not participating and keeps leaving the session. Your client becomes distracted. What should you do?



Case Study 3

Your client has a job at a local pharmacy with inventory. He also uses a device that he is proficient in using but needs help with advocacy and initiating questions regarding tasks that are confusing to him. What are some activities that would be appropriate?



References

- Cason, J., & Cohn, E. R. (2014). Telepractice: An Overview and Best Practices. *Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 23(1), 4–17. <https://doi.org/10.1044/aac23.1.4>
- Hall, N., & Boisvert, M. (2014). Clinical Aspects Related to Tele-AAC: A Technical Report. *Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 23(1), 18–33. <https://doi.org/10.1044/aac23.1.18>

