Communication Deadly Sins

There are many classroom practices that hinder the development of effective communication. We like to think of them as “deadly communication sins”. We’ve all committed these sins at one time or another in the course of our practice. Each month we will highlight a ‘deadly sin’ related to communication and describe how to implement a positive communication practice in place of the deadly sin.

This month’s deadly sin is

**Failing to use Augmentative Communication Devices (AAC)**

If we want students to use AAC, **WE** must use AAC. We must teach with AAC, demonstrate AAC, and teach peers to use AAC. Did I mention USE AAC? But with so much going on in the classroom, **HOW**?

Go slow to go fast. Use a classroom activity matrix to determine the best times of day for learning to use certain types of devices. Maybe we use the dynamic screen tablet during book time; a simple switch with “more please” or “Hi, How are you?” during specials time. Teach everyone to use a device for communication. Even peers who use oral speech should try out a device. Practice, Practice, Practice. It’s Ok to make mistakes-as that presents another opportunity to communicate. Use the button that says “Oops”!

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**Communication 101 Training - ASHA Approved**

**Course Description**

This course presents current data on communication needs of students with severe disabilities, provides practice in identifying idiosyncratic communication, and offers evidence-based strategies for improving communication skills and embedding communication intervention into the academic setting.
Learning Outcomes for Communication 101 Training

- Participants will describe the communication characteristics of students with the most significant disabilities.
- Participants will identify communication output and idiosyncratic communication behaviors in students with significant disabilities.
- Participants will describe at least three successful strategies to facilitate communication with students having severe disabilities.
- Participants will describe three strategies to embed communication targets within the academic curriculum.

To earn ASHA CEUs you must:
- Pre-register for the course through your LIC
- Bring your ASHA number the day of the course
- Complete ASHA CEU form the day of the course
- Be present for the entire course. No partial credit will be provided.

Intervention Helps!

Need help with an individual student’s communication or want to start a district team?

Apply for Tier 2 or 3 Technical Assistance & Coaching

Contact: Jacqui Kearns
Jacqueline.kearns@uky.edu
For an application packet