

2026 Coaching for Communication Partners – August



PRESENTED BY

Dr Sam Brydon

A two-day workshop using the
"Empowering Parents for AAC Approach"
for professionals who support children to use AAC

About this event:

Coaching for Communication Partners is a 2-day professional development workshop that is grounded in the current AAC research. It provides professionals who work in the field of AAC a framework for coaching communication partners (including parents, family, and educators) in how to use supportive AAC strategies.

The workshop combines information sharing, demonstration, videos, group discussions, and multiple opportunities to practice the coaching skills. Participants will leave with a framework for coaching communication partners, as well as a set of instructional resources.

Day 1 Shares evidence based strategies that have been shown to help children develop their communication skills using AAC and how to break these down into achievable goals

Day 2 Introduces a coaching model that can be used with the communication partners of children who use AAC.

Why is the implementation of AAC often unsuccessful for children?

The strategies needed to support children to use AAC are complex and need to be used with skill and nuance. We know that communication partners, such as parents, family, and educators play a key role in helping to make AAC successful, but they are often not provided with adequate support.

One-off training is not enough! Communication partners benefit from a coaching approach to learn these complex skills and apply them successfully.

Background

Coaching for Communication Partners was designed in collaboration with Associate Professor Sally Clendon, Associate Professor Tara McLaughlin, and Dr Elizabeth Doell, Massey University, New Zealand, and uses a coaching model that was developed in partnership with Practice Based Coaching Aotearoa.

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About the presenter:

Sam Brydon is a speech language therapist with 30 years of experience in the field of disability, including as a social worker. Sam originally trained and worked in England, before emigrating to Aotearoa in 2007. She has since worked for the Ministry of Education, Patricia Avenue Specialist School, and currently for The TalkLink Trust. She completed doctoral research at Massey University in the field of AAC in 2023. Sam first discovered LAMP when she was reading and researching for her PhD. She attended the first training in Aotearoa in 2019 and has since implemented and supported LAMP with many children and young people with diverse communication needs and has been excited to observe how successful this approach can be with children who have previously struggled to use AAC

Minimum numbers & Cancellations:

Events require a minimum of participants to proceed. We'll confirm if we can go ahead, at the latest two weeks before the start date of the event. We offer the option to attend at a different location or a full refund in case we need to cancel. Please keep this in mind when booking any travel and accommodations. Cancellations by participants less than 14 days before the event will not be refunded. Substitution by another person is possible when you notify us by email at events@atanz.org.nz no later than 3 days before the start of the event. Please check out our full Cancellation & Refunds Policy + additional Certificates of Attendance Terms and Conditions [here](#)

Who can attend:

This workshop is designed for professionals who support the implementation and use of AAC with children or adults with intellectual impairments. In particular, teachers and therapists supporting learners in specialist schools or mainstream schools; Child Development or Rehab Teams; day program facilitators (adults).

Costs:

\$530 for ATANZ members

\$635 for non-members, ([membership](#) is \$110)

\$315 for students (limited numbers)

Registrations close 2 weeks before events start
or when sold out – places are limited!

Ensure you log in with the correct ticket type to access the discount rate for ATANZ members!

TICKETS AND INFORMATION:

www.atanz.org.nz/events



Auckland – 10 & 11 August
Christchurch – 20 & 21 August



9.00 PM- 4.00 PM

45 min lunch & 15-20 min morning and afternoon tea break

Lunch, morning & afternoon tea will be provided

For any questions about these workshops please contact events@atanz.org.nz