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ATANZ is very excited to host

2027 Teaching Movements for Communication – 2027

PRESENTED BY

Gayle Porter – and Claire Cotter

CPEC Australia

About this event:

For some children with complex communication needs, it is the method of accessing the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) system that is significantly affecting their development of intelligible, autonomous communication. These children, who have significant physical and/or sensory challenges, often need to learn movements to access AAC systems.

This intensive 5-day workshop will provide participants with an in-depth opportunity to explore the movement differences associated with cerebral palsy, other significant neurological movement impairments (e.g. Rett Syndrome, Angelman Syndrome), and severe sensory processing challenges. There will be a focus on identifying these posture and movement challenges in relation to their impact on communication development, assessment and intelligibility. A range of strategies and a process to teach movements for communication will be demonstrated.

After this 5-day workshop, participants will have developed their ability to:

- Identify the role of movement in communication.
- Identify the communication and cognitive assessment challenges for individuals who have sensory-motor challenges and complex communication needs.
- Describe the key movement issues that affect the development of all graded movement, including that required for intelligible communication.
- Observe and analyse the movement for children whose motor and/or sensory processing challenges affect their development of intelligible communication. This includes children with:
  - cerebral palsy (and like conditions).
  - other syndromes (e.g. Rett, Pitt Hopkins, Cri Du Chat).
  - global developmental delay
- Explain how to accommodate for challenging postural control.

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- Explain how to develop sensory & motor control of selective movements.
- Describe an intervention process for developing movements and operational competencies for more intelligible, independent, autonomous communication.
- Assess and teach movements for communication using gesture, non-electronic and electronic AAC systems, including direct pointing, eye-gaze, and scanning access.
- Discuss the concept of parallel learning for electronic and non-electronic, including the Stepping Stones to Switch Access (Burkhart) and eye gaze technology.

Case studies

There will be an opportunity for course participants to submit a case study that may be selected for inclusion in the workshop.

About the presenters

Claire Cotter (B.App Sc. (OT), Dip. CE (Hon), OTR) is a senior Occupational Therapist with 48 years' experience in this field. Claire is a co-founder of the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre in Melbourne, Australia, and recently retired after 30 years of leadership of CPEC, including 12 years as the CEO. She is committed to the best possible outcomes for families who are raising a child with cerebral palsy and other neurological disabilities. With expertise in teaching motor control, addressing sensory processing challenges, developmental play and technology for children with neurological impairments, she addresses the sensorimotor challenges to communication access. Claire coordinates a wide range of professional development opportunities across the sector and contributes to published research papers and online resources. She regularly presents papers and workshops.
In 2023, Claire was awarded an Order of Australia Medal to recognise her services and advocacy for people with disabilities.

Gayle Porter is a Speech Pathologist with over 40 years of hands-on experience working with people with complex communication needs in a range of community and specialist environments. This work has provided Gayle with the opportunity to interact with individuals using AAC from infancy to adulthood, clarifying the longer-term aims of AAC interventions to enable people to autonomously communicate, to understand others and to be understood in all the activities of their daily life. Gayle is one of the founders of the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre in Melbourne, Australia.. Gayle is internationally known for her work developing the Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Displays (PODD) communication books and page sets for electronic speech-generating devices. In addition, she has authored articles, publications and chapters on Augmentative and Alternative Communication and cerebral palsy.
In 1996 Gayle received the Speech Pathology Australia, Elinor Wray Award in recognition of outstanding clinical contribution to the profession of speech pathology, and in 2007 she was the first recipient of the Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) award for services to Australian AAC.
In 2023 Gayle was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her service**s** to speech pathology.

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Content

DAY 1		DAY 2	
10:00	Role of movement in communication Learning to move	8:30	Understanding the learner with sensory processing challenges
11:45	Break	10:15	Break
12.05	Processes for developing movement for communication Key movement issues	10:35	Key movement issues - Learners with different challenges, e.g. Rett Syndrome, Angelman Syndrome
1:30	Lunch	12:30	Lunch
2:15	Understanding the learner with Cerebral Palsy	1:15	Different challenges continued Dynamic assessment
3.45	Break	3:00	Break
4.00	Understanding the learner with Cerebral Palsy	3:15	Learning to Intend Circle of successful learning
6:00	Finish	5:00	Finish

DAY 3		DAY 4	
8:30	Strategies to support learning Hands on facilitation, sensory input, time, equipment	8:30	Teaching movements for communication Non-electronic AAC
10:15	Break	10:15	Break
10:35	Strategies (continued)	10:35	Non-electronic (continued)
12:30	Lunch	12:30	Lunch
1:15	Strategies (continued)	1:15	Non- electronic (continued)
3:00	Break	3:00	Break
3:15	Practice, repetition with intent, purpose and variation	3:15	Parallel learning Teaching movements for communication - Electronic AAC
5:00	Finish	5:00	Finish

DAY 5	
8:30	Accommodations to support communication at any time Participant Case Study 1
10:45	Break
11:05	Participant Case Study 2
12:30	Lunch
1:15	Daily routines Where to Now, Service models, Collaborative team
3:00	Finish

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5-Day Teaching Movements for Communication – 2027

Audience

This 5-day intensive workshop will be most effective for teams who are working with children who have severe physical and sensory challenges and are struggling to access augmentative communication systems. Teams may include: speech-language therapists, educators, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, family members, school leadership and support personnel. However, it will also be of significant value and give direction and knowledge to individual therapists, educators and family members.
It would be helpful, but not a requirement, for one of the members of the team to have previously attended an Introductory PODD (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display Communication) training

Minimum numbers:

Events require a minimum number of participants to proceed. We'll confirm whether we can go ahead at least two weeks before the event start date, or as soon as we reach the number of registrations needed to make the event financially viable. 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 and refunds policy here.

Costs:

- **$1725.00 – ATANZ members – EARLY BIRD RATE**
- **$1855.00 – ATANZ members**
- **$1995.00 – Non-members – EARLY BIRD RATE**
- **$2141.00 – Non-members**
- **$750.00 – Whānau/family members – EARLY BIRD RATE**
- **$806.00 – Whānau /Family members – Limited numbers**
- **$900.00 – Students – EARLY BIRD RATE**
- **$967.50 – Students – Limited numbers**

Please check out our Whanau Professional Development and Learning Grant and ATANZ Professional Development Grant

Early bird rates will end on 31 March 2027. – Registrations will close **on 28 June** or when sold out, at which point a waiting list will be created.
– Places for this event will be capped at 50 participants –

PLEASE REGISTER VIA THIS LINK:
www.atanz.org.nz/events

JetPark Hotel Accommodation Discount

Participants attending this course can take advantage of a 20% discount on accommodation at JetPark during the course week. Please click here for more information.

12– 16 July 2027
(2nd week of school holidays)

Location Auckland –
JetPark Auckland Airport Hotel

Time: Please check the content table with 45 min lunch break. Morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea will be provided

Email us at events@atanz.org.nz