

AAC & DLD: The Ties that Bind

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Children who require language intervention have the same overarching need whether they communicate via natural speech or aided communication modes. Fundamentally, both children with developmental language disorders (DLD) and children using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) require access to language that will allow them to progress in content, form, and use. In this session, we will explore the many commonalities existing between spoken and aided language intervention, including sharing common intervention techniques, contexts, and the need to incorporate both direct interventions and indirect communication partner intervention components. Further, we will discuss current findings and pressing needs in language intervention and measurement to support language development for children using AAC and the urgent need for our discipline at large to advance implementation.