

## **What does it mean to know a word? Vocabulary instruction for AAC learners**

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### **Short Abstract**

Our field has often reduced vocabulary instruction to getting an AAC user to select the button for a word. But what does it mean to truly know a word? How do we build both receptive and expressive knowledge of words? How can an AAC system support rich word learning? And how can we support teachers and clinicians to implement effective, engaging vocabulary instructional routines? Join us in this session as we explore all these questions!

In this interactive session, we'll first review insights from research into how children learn new words, concepts and categories. We will then extend this research to children learning language through the unique properties of a symbol-based AAC system. Finally, we will dive into fun, engaging routines designed specifically to help AAC learners build their knowledge of words. Expect hands-on experience with a range of activities as we identify the elements of effective instruction and how to enact them in busy classrooms.

Whether you're working in the classroom, therapy room, or at home, you'll leave this session with practical, ready-to-use ideas that can make an immediate impact on your students' communication skills. Come help us explore how to give AAC learners true access to the vocabulary they need to thrive!

### **Long Abstract**

This presentation/workshop is part of the AssistiveWare stream.