

Pseudoscience in Autism Treatment & SPEAKALL! Evidenced-Based Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Autism

Presented by: Oliver Wendt, Ph.D.

Hosted by: University of Central Florida Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders –
FAAST Atlantic Region Assistive Technology Demonstration Center

February 8, 2014

10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Registration begins at 9:30 am

Location/Venue:

Nova Southeastern University Campus
4850 Millenia Blvd, Orlando
Room 111

Registration Information:

REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY

DEADLINE: February 6, 2014
Limited to first 120 participants

Register online at
www.doepartnership.org/trainings.html

For more information contact:
Laurie Carroll
laurie.carroll@ucf.edu or 407-823-6010

Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or Staff Development Contact to determine the process for receiving in-service.

ASHA CEUs (0.55 credits) at the intermediate level will be available in the professional area for nominal \$20 administrative processing fee.

About the Presenter

OLIVER WENDT, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, and Educational Studies at Purdue University. He teaches courses on intervention in autism spectrum disorders, augmentative and alternative communication, assistive technology, and single-subject research designs.

Training Description

Workshop #1 (Pseudoscience), 10am-noon:

Pseudoscientific claims about the effectiveness of various treatments are common in autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). These treatments can cause physical, mental, and financial harm. Identification of and protection from pseudoscientific practices is a critical service professionals and parents must do for children and adults who are not able to recognize such malpractice themselves. Critical scientific evaluation of proposed treatments can be the best way to determine the quality of existing research, and to avoid expensive treatments with limited evidence of success. This presentation will provide practitioners and parents with the knowledge to (a) separate science from pseudoscience, (b) identify pseudoscientific treatment claims, and (c) critically appraise current research to determine truly beneficial treatments.

Workshop #2 (SPEAKall!), 1pm-4pm:

Increasingly, electronic communication aids and tablet devices are being used to support communication for children and adults with ASD. Dr. Wendt will overview current trends, research, and findings for these strategies, and introduce a new, evidence-based iPad app, SPEAKall! This application has been specifically designed for communication intervention in prelinguistic learners. It has a very intuitive and “sensory-friendly” interface that reduces cognitive load, which makes it ideal for individuals with severe, non-verbal autism or severe developmental speech and language delay. Practitioners and parents will learn how to transition from exchange-based communication to using an iPad, how to use SPEAKall! to facilitate natural speech and language development, and how to engage in a parent-implemented iPad intervention. Owners of an iPad are encouraged to download the free version of SPEAKall! ahead of the workshop:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/speakall!/id478863940?mt=8>

Training Objectives

As a result of participating in the sessions, participants will be able to:

Workshop #1:

- Identify pseudoscientific treatments and treatment claims in the field of ASD
- Outline quality criteria for treatment efficacy research and evaluate research studies accordingly
- Designate resources to find information on evidence-based practices in ASD
- Understand the controversy about Facilitated Communication and Rapid Prompting Method

Workshop #2:

- Identify the pros and cons of exchange-based communication, electronic communication devices and iPads/tablets for beginning communicators with ASD
- Understand the potential benefits of augmentative and alternative communication for development of natural speech in children with ASD
- Describe the major steps of parent training for using an iPad with their child with ASD
- Know how to program the SPEAKall! app to teach an initial symbol vocabulary

Agenda

Workshop #1: Pseudoscience in Autism Treatment, 10am-noon

10:00-10:10	Introduction: problem of pseudoscience in ASD and workshop goals
10:10-10:25	Defining science and pseudoscience; differences in objectivity, productivity and verifiability
10:25-10:40	Warning signs for pseudoscience
10:40-10:55	Exercise: Looking for “warning signs” in Facilitated Communication and Rapid Prompting Method
10:55-11:15	Principles of treatment research
11:15-11:30	Evaluating the quality of treatment research (certainty of evidence framework)
11:30-11:45	Conclusions and outline of evidence-based practice resources
11:45-noon	Q & A

Workshop #2: SPEAKall! Evidence-based Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), noon-4pm

Noon-12:15	Introduction: Communication characteristics in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs)
12:15-12:45	Review Evidence-based Practice in AAC & ASD: low technology versus high technology
12:45-1:00	Current trends: Tablet devices for AAC in ASD
1:00-1:30	Transitioning from Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) to electronic communication devices and tables

BREAK

1:45-2:00	SPEAKall! Introduction, development, features
2:00-2:30	Customizing SPEAKall! – Hands-On
2:30-3:00	Facilitating speech and language development with SPEAKall!

BREAK

3:15-3:40	Using SPEAKall! for parent-implemented AAC intervention
3:40-3:50	Conclusions and future developments
3:50-4:00	Q&A



University of Central Florida is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology

and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

Disclosure Statement

SPEAK MODalities LLC has developed and patented licensed technologies trademarked as SPEAKall!. Because the presenter is an expert on SPEAKall!, the course offering will only cover information that pertains to the customization and use of the above-named product. This presentation will focus exclusively on SPEAKall! and will not include information pertaining to products similar to or related to SPEAKall! .

