

Centering AAC User Perspectives to Enhance Professional Learning and Student Growth

*December 3, 2025
7:00-8:00 p.m. EDT*

PRESENTED BY:

Mateo Moreno, Jordan Murray and Bre Hof

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

Mateo Moreno has used AAC since the age of 4. He uses a Saltillo NovaChat as his primary communication system, plus his iPhone, speech, gestures, signs and facial expressions. He is a member of the U.S. Society for AAC and plays an active role in the AAC Speaker Connection. He presents nationally for conferences, family events, universities and school districts to share his story about his AAC journey. Mateo visits classrooms to talk with students about his lived experiences and how everyone can work together to ensure inclusion happens while giving students pointers about talking with their peers who use AAC. He's worked as a mentor at AAC camps in Empire, Colorado. He is a PRC-Saltillo Ambassador.

Jordan Murray, M.A., CCC-SLP, is a school-based speech language pathologist and AAC consultant for Gratiot Isabella RESD. Her special interests in the field include AAC assessment and family coaching. She enjoys working with students of all ages. In her free time, Jordan loves spending time with her husband and son, going to her family cottage on the lake, and enjoying walks.

Bre Hof, M.A., CCC-SLP, is a school-based speech language pathologist and AAC consultant for Gratiot Isabella RESD in Mid-Michigan. Her special interests in the field include AAC assessment, inclusion, literacy access for all, and child-led play-based therapy. While not working, Bre enjoys spending time with her family, collecting new hobbies, and maintaining her family's small flower farm and homestead

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

This presentation will provide ideas for building capacity, challenging limiting beliefs, and creating meaningful relationships by collaborating with AAC users to share real-life AAC experiences. We will discuss incorporating AAC user perspectives when developing evidenced-based professional development opportunities for professional and paraprofessional staff. We will also discuss the impact of shifting the perspective of "Speech-Language Pathologist as the expert on AAC" to acknowledging that the true experts are AAC users themselves. Mateo will share his perspective on why AAC users should play a big role in the conversations. Bre and Jordan will outline the impact collaboration with Mateo has made on staff mindsets and the data we've seen as a result of an ongoing journey to build an AAC community that supports each other in our rural setting.

MODERATED BY: Tina Moreno

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SLPs who are USSAAC/ISAAC members may have their participation in this webinar reported for ASHA CEUs at no charge. Non-members must pay a \$25 reporting fee.

This course is offered for 0.10 ASHA CEUs (Introductory level; Professional area).

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. List current barriers to AAC knowledge and access in the district.
2. Contrast PD impact between educator-led experiences and first-hand experiences.
3. Form connections with AAC users willing to collaborate to present on or consult about real-life experiences with AAC.

TIME ORDERED AGENDA:

- 5 minutes: Introduction of Speakers, USSAAC and topic
- 10 minutes: Partnering with AAC users when developing professional development activities.
- 10 minutes: AAC users as experts
- 10 minutes: Collaborating on professional development activities
- 15 minutes: Results of partnership
- 10 minutes: Q & A

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) CEUs in speech-language pathology and audiology are awarded by the ASHA CE Registry upon receipt of the CEU Participant Form from the ASHA Approved CE Provider, USSAAC. CEU Participant Forms are available online at Registration or via the QR Code displayed during the presentation. ASHA CEUs are provided to full registrations. This program is offered for .10 ASHA CEUs (Introductory Level, Professional Area). Participants must stay for the entire presentation and complete the questionnaire at the end of the webinar.

ASHA Disclosures:

Speakers

Financial:

Bre Hof is the owner of Rooted Speech and Language Services, PLLC

Jordan Murray is the owner of Bright Horizons Speech Therapy, PLLC

Mateo Moreno is a PRC-Salttillo Ambassador and presents on topics related to AAC

Nonfinancial:

Bre Hof has no non-financial disclosures to report.

Jordan Murray has no non-financial disclosures to report.

Mateo Moreno is a member of USSAAC and its AAC Awareness Committee

Moderator

Financial: Tina Moreno has no financial disclosures to report.

Nonfinancial: Tina Moreno is a USSAAC member and chairs the AAC Awareness Committee..

To register for this Webinar please go to the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8pJlcg_dSRKw7U9r9CVmug

PLEASE NOTE: Only the first 150 attendees to log into the webinar will be guaranteed spots.

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USSAAC EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Amy Bereiter, Betsy Caporale, Kate DeJarnette, Nicole Gallagher, Richard Hurtig,
Michelle Phillippy, Wendy Quach, Sharon Redmon

about USSAAC

The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) is the national chapter of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC). As the United States' only non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the entire AAC community, USSAAC provides an invaluable role, working to ensure that individuals who could benefit from AAC have access to the technology and services they need.

Benefits of membership include, but are not limited to:

- *Free access to USSAAC webinar series with ASHA CEUs and USSAAC Twitter chats*
- *Advocacy for maintaining & expanding access to AAC systems and services*
- *Discount to ISAAC Conferences*
- *SpeakUp publication/Blog*
- *Information updates on USSAAC website, social platforms and member finder*
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