

# UAAACT News

Utah Augmentative, Alternative, Assistive Communication  
And Technology Teams

UAAACT Web Site: [www.uaaact.org](http://www.uaaact.org)

March, 2010

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## It's Spring It's Spring

What a relief it is to see the sun and feel its warmth. After what seems to be a very long winter, the sunshine and signs of spring flowers and a hint of green, is rejuvenating.

Two events coming up in April for us to enjoy. The Regional Conference with Gayl Bowser promises to give us all a jump start and we appreciate the Leadership Council for giving us this opportunity. We are asked to bring a guest with us, someone that will also benefit from the information that will be given to us. Get your reservations made with Lynn, as soon as possible. The second event is a Sensory Integration Workshop sponsored by the Utah State Office of Education. Jay Wheeler will be the guest speaker. (\*see the attached flyer).

We continue to appreciate the efforts of Craig, Scott and Lynn in making these opportunities available for us. The Leadership Council is already planning the UAAACT Conference for 2011. It sounds like a long way from now – but it is just around the corner, so begin to make plans to attend and for presentations you might like to give.

We would still like to hear from you about some of the wonderful things you are doing for students or about AT tricks you have found. Send us an e-mail.

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Training Opportunities and Deadline dates

April 14, 2010

Gayl Bowser Workshop (Ogden)

April 15, 2010

Gayl Bowser Workshop (Provo/Orem)

(See article)

April 28, 2010

Sensory Integration Workshop

June 11, 2010

Documentation of UAAACT Competencies

June 11, 2010

Team Summary Report (send to Janalyn Biesinger at [jbiesinger@graniteschools.org](mailto:jbiesinger@graniteschools.org)) or Fremont Elementary School, 4249 S. 1425 West, Taylorsville, UT 84123

## Up Coming Events and Training

### Regional UAAACT Workshop with Gayl Bowser

Gayl Bowser, an outstanding AT trainer and author of numerous assistive technology publications will be in Utah for two days for a special UAAACT training opportunity for us in April. All UAAACT members and their guests are invited to attend one of her workshops. The schedule for both workshops will be 9:30 AM with lunch provided by the UAAACT project. The workshop will conclude at 3:30 PM.

In order to facilitate the attendance of UAAACT members and their guest, the UAAACT project will cover appropriate costs associated with attendance at one of Gayl's workshops. The UAAACT project will cover mileage, meals and lodging for those who live and work 50 miles or more from the training locations. UAAACT members and their guest who work in northern Utah are encouraged to attend the workshop on April 14<sup>th</sup> in Ogden. UAAACT members in southern Utah are encouraged to attend the workshop on April 15<sup>th</sup> in Orem. UAAACT members and their quest in the Salt Lake area and the Uintah basin can chose the workshop that fits their schedule.

You must register to attend a workshop, even though there is no registration fee. Register for one of the Gayl Bowser workshops by calling or e-mailing: Lynn Marcoux (801-887-9380) [lmarcoux@utah.gov](mailto:lmarcoux@utah.gov) or Craig Boogaard (801-887-9533) [cboogaar@utah.gov](mailto:cboogaar@utah.gov)

#### Workshop Locations:

Ogden Marriott (**April 14** - Ogden workshop)

247 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ogden, Utah 84401  
(1-801- 627-1190)

\*State rate is \$70/night

Hampton Inn & Suites (**April 15** – Provo/Orem Area workshop)

851 West 1250 South  
Orem, Utah 84058 (1-801-426-8500)

\*State rate is \$75/night

Reserve a room at: [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

Select Government Rate, then select State Government to get the \$75/ night rate.

## Gayl Bower: Biography

Gayl Bowser's work as an independent consultant focuses on the integration of technology into the educational programs of students with disabilities. Former Coordinator of the Oregon Technology Access Program (OTAP) and a special education teacher by training, Ms Bowser has also worked as a school administrator and holds an Oregon School Superintendent's credential. She works, regularly, with school districts to develop effective, legal and high quality assistive technology services. She provides assistive technology consultation, training and technical assistance throughout the United States and internationally. Gayl Bowser has been the recipient of Oregon CEC's Teacher of the Year Award and the Service Award of the National Technology and Media Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CECTAM). In 1993, Ms Bowser was named one of Oregon's Distinguished Educators by the Milken Family Foundation. Ms Bowser is a founding member of the Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology Services (QIAT) consortium and a member of the QIAT Leadership Team.

Ms Bowser has authored numerous publications. The most recent is entitled, "The Assistive Technology Trainer's Handbook", which was co-authored with Penny Reed and Marsye Kaplan. The AT Trainers Handbook is a publication of the National Assistive Technology in Education (NATE) Network. Other publication include the Education Tech Point series which was co-authored by Penny Reed and "How Do You Know it?" with Penny Reed and Jane Korsten.

- The Assistive Technology Trainer's Handbook (2009)
- A School Administrator's Desktop Guide to Assistive Technology (2004)
- How Do You Know IT? How Can You Show IT? : Making Assistive Technology Decisions (2002 with Jane Korsten)
- Hey! Can I Try That? : A Student Handbook for Choosing and Using Assistive Technology (2001)
- Assistive Technology Pointers for Parents (2000)
- Education Tech Points: A Framework for Assistive Technology Planning (1998)

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Gayl Bowser's workshop presentation will be: "After the Assessment: Strategies for AT Implementation".

After a team completes an assistive technology assessment and chooses assistive technology tools for a child with disabilities, the work has only begun. Implementation planning, inclusion strategies and evaluation of the effectiveness of the assistive technology program are essential if AT is to become a useful tool for an assistive technology user. Every team member has an important role to play.

This workshop introduces the following ideas:

1. Framing the initial questions to support implementation strategies.
2. Re-SETTING after the assessment is complete.
3. Anticipating levels of participation when using AT.
4. Aspects of assistive technology competence.
5. Creating an environment for AT success
6. Evaluating effectiveness of the implementation.

### Susan Johnston's Summer Workshops

Another opportunity for training are the excellent summer classes taught by Susan Johnston (University of Utah). The UAAACT project will pay the "audit" fee for UAAACT members who want to attend Susan's workshops. She has received high reviews from UAAACT members who have attended her workshops during previous year.

SPED 6612 – 3 credit hours – Electronic Communication Aids – Meets M-F, June 7-11  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SPED 6613 – 3 credit hours – Augmentative and Alternative Communication Instructional Strategies.

Meets: M-F - June 14-18 - 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Register by May 1<sup>st</sup> by emailing your request to Lynn Marcoux at: [lmarcoux@utah.gov](mailto:lmarcoux@utah.gov)

### New Location

The Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center (USIMAC) has moved from Salt Lake to Ogden as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. Their new address is:

USIMAC

Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind  
742 Harrison Blvd.  
Ogden, UT 84404

The USIMAC offers the opportunity for students with print disabilities to gain increased access to the general curriculum by making core instructional materials available in alternate formats. In accordance with the Chafee amendment, the USIMAC produces accessible core materials in Braille, large print, audio (MP3 format), digital (e-Texts such as PDF< HTML< Word, text), or DAISY (which can be a combination of audio and digital) formats.

Vali Kremer is still a good contact person at USIMAC. You can reach her by email at:

[valik@usdb.org](mailto:valik@usdb.org) Phone # (801) 629-4796

The forms to request accessible text books are online at: [www.usimac.org](http://www.usimac.org)

### Let Plan Ahead

The 2011 UAAACT State Conference Is in the planning stages already. Mark the following dates into next year's calendar so that you can be part of a "wonderful" experience.

The conference will be at either the Davis Conference Center – Layton or the Ogden Eccles Conference Center.

February 9<sup>th</sup>

Pre-conference day - UAAACT members only training by: Pati King- DeBaun.

February 10<sup>th</sup>

Gail Van Tatenhove – Keynote speaker

February 11<sup>th</sup>

Dave Edyburn – Keynote speaker

If you're interested in doing a break-out session start planning now. Remember your team will receive equipment money for your presentation.

The Leadership Council is working hard on the details. More information will come as it is available.

## Tips of the Trade

By: Dave Lambert

Everyone is experiencing financial challenges today. In my 25 years, in the profession as a speech language pathologist involved with augmentative communication, I have never seen a year that funds are so tight. Years ago, prior to these financial challenging times, I started making all my own therapy materials. This applied to augmentative communication programs and devices as well. I can't make everything, but much of what I made was easy and much more functional than what I could buy.

I have three guidelines:

The Three F's –

Fast, Functional and Free

Now before I go much further, it's important to note I use provided software programs such as Mayer Johnson's Boardmaker and Slater's Picture IT and PixWriter. These programs are available and purchased for all Augmentative Communication Teams throughout Utah. Therefore, they are technically free to members of augmentative teams. We have a lot of materials at our fingertips, most of which we forget about and don't use. My first suggestion before we discuss anything further is to look at what you have and see if you are using it.

**FAST:** If it can't be made within thirty minutes – it's too complicated. Evaluation kits, stimulus materials, homemade switches, etc., can all be created fast.

**FUNCTIONAL:** If it doesn't fit into the individual's life it doesn't mean anything to them. Too often we buy materials and then create what we need based on that. The internet is a fast and free wonderland. With a digital camera and the internet coupled with a program like Boardmaker you can create almost anything -- Social stories, bingo boards, games and books that can easily be created. I have dozens of each with Major League Baseball, NFL, Nascar and Barbies. Personalized books are not that difficult. Making picture menus, bus schedules with pictures and clocks instead of route numbers and time, with pictured shopping lists are simple.

**Free:** Your imagination and a willingness to try anything without the fear of it not working is the key to finding and creating materials without much cost. Low Tech is where we spend most of our time and here we are only limited by our imagination and willingness to try. High Tech devices can all be simulated using low tech and free material. Most high tech devices have free downloads we can explore. Many vendors have fee stuff on their web sites that are very useful in evaluation and program design.

My favorite sites are listed below. Most of you will already know about them or have favorites of your own. The important thing is that we explore and share together. The world of augmentative communication is a wonderful place. The pay-off is seeing a child's smile, hearing a laugh for the first time or witnessing the first initiated word in whatever form it comes. Peace and happy creating.

Dave's Favorite Web sites

### AACTechConnect

<http://www.aactechconnect.com/aacinfo.cfm>

(Great reference page)

### WareSeeker.com

<http://wareseeker.com/free-best-augmentative-communication-devices/>

(Many free downloads)

### RJCooper

<http://www.rjcooper.com/>

(Some free, others very inexpensive)

### Intellitools

<http://www.intellitools.com>

(Download Free Classroom Suite Activity exchange)

### Mayer Johnson

<http://www.mayer-johnson.com>

(Check the free download section)

### Gus Communication Devices

<http://www.gusinc.com/2010/Downloads.html>

(A great free trial download)

### Bing Translator

<http://www.microsofttranslator.com>

(Great language translator for free)

### Enable Mart

<http://www.enablemart.com/Catalog/Manufacturers>

(Good comprehensive list of manufactures')

### Slater

<http://altogether.wordpress.com/2008/02/27/ms-word-and-slater-software-free-online-symbol-resource-video-podcast>

## UCET Conference

Many of the UAAACT team members took advantage of the invitation extended to us to attend the UCET conference. Everyone that went to the conference came away with some good information. The break-out sessions were very informative. We had a number of our own UAAACT team members presenting. Way to go ! Those presenting were: Craig Boogaard and Scott Baggaley (UCAT), Mona Oversteg (Weber), Janalyn Biesinger (Granite), Judy Roberts (Jordan), and the Carbon/Emery team.

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## Congratulations and Welcome

### New UAAACT Team Members

Verleen Stephens – Team N, Washington Dist.  
Jennifer Gochnour – Team G, Jordan District  
Joy Mano – Team G, Jordan District  
Robyn Thompson - Team G, Jordan District

## Did You Know

NEWS2You has made some wonderful changes to their newspaper. There are many new links that give you printable activities. The familiar things are still on the site but it is very impressive what they have added.

Everyone should have a roll of double stick tape in their materials. It is great when you run out of Velcro or need to add picture icons to a device quickly.

### Wonderful web sites:

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

Large amount of literacy type programming available for free. Can be made to highlight and read information as you do activities.

[www.santamariabonita](http://www.santamariabonita)

Programming developed by a school district in California. This site has reading materials, stories, activities, and vocabulary words with corresponding pictures. Grade level materials can be chosen. (Free to down load)

## A Note from Craig Final Team Report

**Due: June 11th**

There is a new item on the final team report form this year that needs to be filled out along with the other information.

**\*Total Number of UAAACT equipment items provided to students, parents and IEP teams during this reporting period \_\_\_\_\_.**

## Definition of Equipment Items Provided

If your UAAACT team provides something physical (AAC device, switch, software, PEC's pictures printed with Boardmaker) to a student, teacher or parent, you should count that as an item checked out. If a team uses an item from the UAAACT central inventory with more than one student, then count each time the equipment is used with a new student.

What is the best way for teams to keep a count of items checked out? Each team has Filemaker Pro software. When a UAAACT member borrows equipment from the central UAAACT inventory, we print and keep a copy of the checkout form. All the forms are filed away. At the end of the year, we count the checkout forms in the file and our report is done. Teams could (should) do the same thing. We just need a number from each team at the end of the year indicating how many items have been loaned to students, parents and teachers. We collect data (numbers of items check out) to verify the UAAACT funds are being wisely used.

## Remember

**All the forms for team and equipment reporting are at the UAAACT web site.**

# Highlights



## - Ross Fishburn -

By: Jim West

The Davis Augmentative teams are very fortunate to have a team member that composes unique software programs – for a hobby! Ross works as a teaching assistant in a functional skills classroom during the day, but at night, he is a super hero! Seriously, we do consider him to be a hero, a real asset to an education system with limited funding. About a hundred of you have already received a copy of many of his programs – at least those that attended his session at the UAAACT conference last year. If you haven't, Ross has been generous about providing you a copy of his programs, for free.

These programs include a broad variety of topics that compliment most functional skills classrooms and learning centers. Most programs were composed to work well with a touch screen or a mouse. Some are intended to work with a single switch. Ross composed most programs with a specific student in mind; however, you might find another student that could benefit from the same program. Topics addressed include many assorted functional academic and basic academic skills; colors, numbers, money, time, touch math, problem

In addition to the assorted programs, Ross developed an assortment of fonts. These can be installed on any Windows based computer and used with any word processor. His fonts include assorted dashed-line handwriting fonts, Braille, sign language, touch math, and resource teachers' favorite --- "Ross' Dyslexic". These fonts work well for helping students learn handwriting, providing models to trace, with or without guidelines. If you want guidelines, you don't need an underscore, just space; easier than commercially produced fonts.

If you are interested in this software, contact Scott Baggaley at : [sbaggaley@utah.gov](mailto:sbaggaley@utah.gov)

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## A Message from Lynn

Consider ordering a portion of your 2010-11 team equipment this summer. After team reports have been sent to Craig in June, he will be able to calculate your team equipment budget for the 2010-11 school year. It would help me to have your equipment orders by late June or early July so I'll have some summer days to shop for the best prices and to place the orders for you. It is quiet during the summer when all the teams are out playing in the sun and it will give me time to work on your order. [lmarcoux@utah.gov](mailto:lmarcoux@utah.gov)

## Internet Training

If you are interested in additional training, go to DynaVox Mayer-Johnson Training site to see listings of Online Web Classes for AAC Training. <http://www.dynavoxtech.com/training/online> ASHA CEU's are available for select sessions at no additional cost.

Many other companies offer internet training from time to time. Check their web-sites.

## Local Training

If your team wants or needs specific training on equipment and/or programs, remember that you can call Scott (801-887-9534) or Craig (801-887-9533) to scheduling UAAACT training in your district or at The Computer Center. They are very willing and can help with AAC devices and many assistive technology products.

# Utah State Office of Education



## Sensory Integration Workshop

**Who:** Teachers of Students with Sensory Disabilities, Paraprofessionals, OT's, PT's and other stakeholders.

**Why:** We receive and perceive sensory input through sights, sounds, touch, tastes, smell and movement. Difficulty taking in or interpreting this input can lead to devastating consequences in: daily functioning, social and family relationships, behavioral challenges, regulating emotions, self-esteem, and learning. In our classrooms we see students who have this difficulty. Come and learn about how to help construct you classroom activities to address these concerns.

**Speaker:** We are excited that Jay Wheeler will be speaking to us about this "hot topic" in Special Education. With a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy, he has worked for the past six years for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in the Salt Lake City Division. Jay is highly thought of by his peers because of his demeanor and knowledge about occupational therapy. He has contributed to the field by participating on state committees, organizing information, coordinating programs, and making plans for improvement in the field to fit student need. Jay goes out of his way to communicate with families in making parents understand their role in the follow through for better outcomes for their children.

**Where:** The Jones Center, 382 East, 3605 South, Salt Lake City, Utah

**When:** April 28, 2010, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

To register email [rebecca.lewis@schools.utah.gov](mailto:rebecca.lewis@schools.utah.gov)

## UAAACT Team Summary Report

Please report the number of students served and the number of UAAACT hours for the period of June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. This report should be completed by the UAAACT Team Leader and turned in to Janalyn Biesinger by Friday, June 11, 2010. If your report is not received by June 15, your team hours and number of students will be recorded as zero and your equipment budget for the 2010-11 school year will be calculated accordingly.

**Email report to: [jbiesinger@graniteschools.org](mailto:jbiesinger@graniteschools.org) or mail to: Janalyn Biesinger  
Fremont Elementary School, 4249 S. 1425 West, Taylorsville, UT 84123**

Team Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Person Submitting Report \_\_\_\_\_

Email address of Person Submitting Report \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Students served by this team during the reporting period \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of UAAACT hours provided during this reporting period \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of UAAACT equipment items provided to students, parents and IEP teams during this reporting period \_\_\_\_\_

### Definition of a Student

The student has been referred to the UAAACT team for an evaluation. The UAAACT team has provided some level of service to the student or the student's educational team (IEP team, 504 team or regular education team) during this school year. *The UAAACT referral form for this student is in the UAAACT team file.* The same student can be counted only once during the reporting period even if that student was served by more than one UAAACT team member.

Definition of Hours- UAAACT service hours are hours of service provided by a UAAACT team member only when acting as a UAAACT team member and not as a member of the student's education team. For example: If a UAAACT team member is the direct service provider for a student who has been evaluated by the UAAACT team, they would not count their scheduled service time for that student as UAAACT hours. The UAAACT team member would count their time spent in providing a UAAACT evaluation or follow-up service for that student.

In an evaluation where five team members serve one student for one hour, each team member records one hour of service. When the team leader tallies the team members hours, filling out the UAAACT Team Summary Report, there would be five hours of service for that student. But they still only served one student. If one team member spends 3 hours writing a student report, that would count as 3 hours.

The following services may count as UAAACT hours: Evaluation or assessment, follow-up services, travel to UAAACT activities, training provided to a parent, student, or education team, report writing, equipment management or self training on UAAACT equipment.

#### Definition of Equipment Items Provided

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