

UATT News

Utah Assistive Technology Teams

UATT Web Site: www.uaaact.org (until notice of change)

2013 UATT CONFERENCE – CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF TEAMING



The Utah Augmentative Alternative Assistive and Communication Team Project (UAAACT) officially changed its name to Utah Assistive Technology Teams (UATT) during the 2013 Biannual Conference in February 2013. UATT is easier to explain to others and better reflects the scope of our responsibilities. Although we focus on communication skills, we provide various types of assistive technology to all students who may need it to access the general curriculum or accomplish a wide range of IEP goals.

The UATT conference was held at the Provo Marriott this year. The conference provided many opportunities to see, hear, and learn about new ways assistive technology (AT) can touch the lives of students with disabilities. Vendors were available at booths and during conference sessions to demonstrate and showcase products as well as to answer questions. We also had a wide range of sessions presented by UATT members from teams across the state. Look for a few summaries of those presentations in the articles that follow.

Our two Keynote Speakers were Penny Reed and Don Johnston. Penny had each team fill out a profile of AT services in their team area or district. Then she showed us the data of the areas where we are being successful or needed improvement. She gave useful tools to be more effective at assessing and assisting IEP teams by supporting them to make appropriate IEP goals that include AT, following up, and helping the IEP team to make and plan for that student that includes the AT, including who is responsible. Implementation included planning details of the real tasks, providing instruction, providing support, and disseminating information and obtaining buy in from everyone.

April 2013

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Penny Reed



Don Johnston

Don Johnston talked about his journey as a student with a learning disability to become an innovative leader in the assistive technology industry. He attributes much of his success to a teacher who taught him that he was smart and capable and spent the extra time it took to teach him in a way that he could understand. His key point is that everyone can learn. As educators, it is our quest to find each student's pathways to success. Failure is not an option.

Special Education Directors were invited to attend Penny Reed's Keynote and to award 10 Year Pins to their UATT members. We so appreciate the support of our directors for UATT. They allow us time to conduct student assessments and frequently provide funds to purchase the assistive technology tools our students need. THANK YOU Special Ed. Directors!!!



Melanie Bowen and Cathy Szumagala receive 10 Year Service Pins.



Jocelyn Taylor and Craig Boogaard arranged to have the Utah State Office of Education provide an iPad Lab for UATT, just in time for the conference . . . garnering UATT's sincere thanks !

Below, Craig and Kevin John prep the iPad Lab.



Video Modeling Imitation Training: iPads & Autism Spectrum Disorder

Mindy Gerritsen

I enjoyed the presentation on how to use video modeling with students with autism presented by Theresa Cardon from UVU. Theresa published a study on video modeling and shared the results with the class. She showed us how easy it is to use an iPad to record a video and then use it for video modeling. The results of her study indicate that the person in the video can be an adult or child. The child should watch the video at least 10 times each day to ensure enough exposure to the behavior. She also mentioned that the key to creating a successful video model is to have no distractions in the foreground or background. When you make the video, keep the camera in one position and video the person from the waist up or zoom in close for discrete behaviors, such as tying shoes or washing hands.

Chris Timothy, from USOE, awarded 25 Year Plaques to Tricia Pearson, Carol O'Meara, Dave John, Marla Marshall, Gwen Evans, Marilyn Price-Larson, & Vickey Carlson.



She also presented Distinguished Service Awards to Susan Hamblin, Marla Marshall and Denise Warren.

Positioning for Successful

Communication - by Denise Warren

The session "*Positioning for Successful Communication*" was presented by Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind staff Denise Winters and Jenn Mitchell. The session dealt with the effects of positioning on the students' abilities to reach, activate, attend, focus, and even remain awake and active. Good positioning will facilitate communication and just as ineffective positioning will hinder it.

Goals of positioning include: facilitating normal movement, minimizing influence of abnormal tone, providing a stable base of support to promote function and more.

Good positioning begins at the base, with a neutral pelvis, and then moves to provide support below, then above.

They demonstrated a multitude of ways to set up positioning, including balls, Rifton chairs, mounts, back supports, trunk supports, head supports, neck supports, slant boards, side supports, pillows, and more. Different positions, with inherent advantages/disadvantages were presented, e.g. while a prone position provides increased proprioceptive input, it also requires any communication partner to be also prone in order to make eye contact.

See <http://my.uen.org/myuen/5344> for the complete PowerPoint.

Extending Learning Opportunities through the Use of iPad Technology

Chad Fletcher

I attended the session "*Extending Learning Opportunities through the Use of iPad Technology*". This presentation was given by Mona Overstag from Weber School District. Mona talked about using the iPad with students who may have physical challenges and learning disabilities. She showed us an app called "Type on PDF" that allows one to type or handwrite directly on a PDF. Many students have a hard time holding onto a pencil or forming the letters of the alphabet. This app allows students to either type on the screen or simply use a finger to write. Once the student completes their assignment, the PDF (student worksheet) can either be printed off or emailed directly to the teacher. Seeing this app's capability and functionality made me excited to try it with students. Mona also talked about other apps and options with the iPad, but the app "Type on PDF" got me excited about how I can use it to help students.

Thank you Mona for showing me an app that I will be utilizing in the near future!!



It wouldn't have been a conference without a little fun. Our Master of Ceremonies, Chad Fletcher, provided that by presenting some of Utah's more obscure laws.

**Switch Power!
Moving students past single switch cause
and effect activities**

By Merrie Smithson

The session *Switch Power! Moving students past single switch cause and effect activities* was presented by Robert Woodbury and Cathy Szumigala from the Cache County School District. This presentation was adapted from the booklet titled: *Two Switches for Success: Access for Children with Severe Physical and/or Multiple Challenges* by Linda Burkhart. The session included topics such as 8 stepping stones to move students from single switch cause and effect to independent two switch step scanning, easy to implement examples of activities for each step, appropriate use and fading of prompts and much more. One of the most important concepts taught was that the switch must be linked to an outcome in a concrete way for it to have meaning. Praise should always focus on the outcome and not hitting of the switch (e.g. “You turned on the toy” instead of “You hit the switch”). When prompting, don’t make the prompt more rewarding than the activity itself. Why would a child want to hit a switch if s/he is getting lots of attention and social interaction by waiting or hesitating? When implementing switch use, strive for 20 or more opportunities per day. The more repetition and variety the better! For a great example of a fun activity, watch the Leaf Blowing Switch Activity at:

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JB3AS5a753s>)

Other good websites that include LOTS of social interaction are:

<http://www.judyhelps.net/onlinestudent.htm>;

http://www.judylynn.com/prog_desc.php?PROG_NUM=553 and www.Helpkidzlearn.com.

To Finish Up Conference Notes and Pics



As always, Craig and Lynn were up early to take care of details and registration.

Lynn takes a rare moment to relax and enjoy!



Jim West has been a work horse during the past 2 months, helping with conference preparation, doing much of the work at

conference, and keeping the services at UCAT moving forward. His last day at UCAT was on March 28th. But he will continue to be involved with the UATT Project, assisting with contracted AT assessments in charter schools. We extend our best wishes to Jim and thank him for his HUGE volume of completed work!!!

2012 – 2013 Ken Reavis Distinguished Service Award

This award was established in honor of Ken Reavis' leadership and contribution to the field of augmentative communication service in the State of Utah. Ken was a pioneer in developing a statewide program for evaluating the technology needs of students who are limited in oral and written communication skills. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals in the State of Utah whose outstanding service has resulted in enhanced communication skills of students with disabilities. This award was given to two outstanding women: **Judy Olsen**, Speech Language Pathologist, from Carbon School District and **Carol O'Meara**, Occupational Therapist, from Salt Lake City School District.



The UAAACT Champion Award was presented to **Amy Henningsen** who played a key role in bringing UAAACT to Utah and helping get the project started. 25 years later, she is still supporting the project and helping children with AT.



Dates to Note and Remember:

- 4/4 Tobii, Kristine Bengen presentation
UCAT 1-3:00
- 4/16 New Member Orientation
UCAT 1—3:30 pm
- 4/19 Significant Cognitive Disability
Conference
Provo Marriott 8:30—4:00 pm
- 5/9 Tobii, Kristine Bengen presentation
UCAT (This is a repeat of 4/4)
- 6/7 Annual Reports due

SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITY CONFERENCE 2013

This event will be held on Friday, April 19, 2013 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Provo Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 101 West 100 North Provo, UT 84601. Gail Van Tatenhove, MS, CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist in private practice, working with children and adults who use AAC strategies and devices. She will present on Activity –Based Instruction, a teaching format used with many students with severe intellectual disabilities. This presentation will focus on the selection, representation, and use of 150 – 200 generic, core words, rather than activity-specific extended vocabulary across the school day. This presentation will demonstrate the use of these words, using simple aided manual communication boards and speech output devices.

UATT members can be reimbursed for approved expenses related to this conference
<https://usoe.truenorthlogic.com/ia/render.userLayoutRootNode.uP> Course # 48153
No CACTUS number, you can register by contacting Emily Bytheway (801) 538-7936.

New UATT Member Orientation at UCAT

A New UATT member orientation will be provided at UCAT on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 from 1- 3:30 pm. This workshop is specifically designed for new UATT members. If you have a new team member who has not previously attend orientation, please invited them to this training. We will cover some background on the UAAACT/UATT project, team member responsibilities, and information on the AT assessment process. Craig Boogaard and Kevin Christensen will team up to provide the training. New UATT members will receive an updated manual.

Register by email to Craig Boogaard at: cboogaar@utah.gov

Tobi ATI—Kristine Bengen at UCAT

Thursday, April 4th from 1-3:00 PM at **May 9th** (repeated for those of us on **Spring Break in April**)

“Using Tobii Communicator and The Sono Suit Page Sets.”---This workshop will focus on communication software and vocabularies on the My Tobii devices. It will also include information on the new Evaluation Toolkit.

Email Lynn Marcoux at:

lmarcoux@utah.gov

Webinars available at Tobi ATI:

To check their live webinar calendar to see upcoming webinars anytime.

<http://www.tobii.com/en/assistive-technology/north-america/news-events/live-webinar-calendar/>

End of the School Year Housekeeping

1) Lynn reports that many teams wait until the last minute to complete equipment orders and warns that state rules do not bend, so anything ordered after the March 15th deadline will not arrive before the end of the school year. This also adds to the mountain of fiscal year-end paperwork. Please order ASAP!

2) Also, if you haven't yet, get your conference reimbursement form submitted to Lynn ASAP.

3) Reports are due to UCAT no later than June 7th. This includes: Documentation of UATT Competencies and UATT Team Summary Report (compiled from Team Members Hours and Students Served).

A Rose by any other Name with a Brand New Look . . .

With our new name, we also have a new Logo, the winning submission from Melanie Adams (that's her with her face covered on the front page). Feel free to use the Logo on forms, shirts, etc. It's ours now! Craig can send you a jpeg. file.

