

Summer Symposia in Support of Low Incidence Populations Complex Communication Needs

Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium in cooperation with Alberta Education is offering three Summer Symposia professional learning opportunities to support staff new to working with children and youth from low-incidence populations, set in the context of the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) model.

This PD opportunity has been designed to provide teachers and other staff with foundational information about students who have complex communication needs. Over the years of completing these workshops attendees have reported feeling more prepared, better able to begin the year with a student in their class who has complex communication needs. Topics that will be covered in this day-long event will include:

- an introduction to who we are talking about when we say students with complex communication needs
- an introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication supports and services and how these are critical to learning for children with CCN
- an introduction to and discussion of the Communication Bill of Rights
- an brief overview of some tools teachers may use for assessing students present level of communicative abilities
- an introduction to some critical supports for students who use AAC including: aided language stimulation and language development through direct instruction
- a look at some of the AAC Myths that might influence a teacher's expectations for students with AAC
- an introduction to literacy instruction and its importance for students who are augmented speakers.

This one day session will provide attendees with a broad array of hands-on activities, practical knowledge and skills development to promote academic success for their students. This workshop is not intended to replace the valuable ongoing services of the strategists, educational consultants or speech and language pathologists who are working with these low incidence students and the school staff. Participants will be provided with information on resources, both provincial and local, that they can draw upon to support them in their work, and will leave with a plan as they begin the 2017-18 school year.