



## Supporting Literacy Learning for Students with Significant Disabilities - Emergent Readers and Writers

<b>Facilitator(s):</b>	Jane Farrall
<b>Date:</b>	December 03, 2018
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 am – 3:30 pm
<b>Cost:</b>	\$150.00  (includes lunch, which is not prepared in a nut/gluten-free environment)
<b>Location:</b>	Edmonton (Fantasyland Hotel) 17700 - 87 Avenue
<b>Session Code:</b>	19-IE-003



### Target Audience

Teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities, Instructional/Learning Coaches, Teacher Assistants, Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, past participants of Literacy for All Communities of Practice

### About this Learning Opportunity

This workshop will cover the rationale and principles underlying a comprehensive approach to literacy instruction for all students, including students with significant cognitive disabilities, beginning with the foundations of emergent literacy. Specific literacy skills and experiences have been identified in emergent literacy research as important foundations for all students in order to move towards developing conventional reading and writing skills. This range of skills will be outlined, and practical ideas provided for working on these skills with emergent readers and writers of any age.

The importance of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and language development for emergent literacy learners with complex communication needs will also be covered – and videos will be used to demonstrate emergent literacy being paired with AAC in classroom settings. Shared reading, three areas of emergent writing, letters and sounds, and independent reading will all be discussed within a framework that allows us to meet the needs of all emergent readers and writers in our classrooms.

*This session addresses the TQS competency #4: Establishing Inclusive Learning Environments*

*This learning opportunity is being provided through funding from Alberta Education.*

### About the Facilitator(s)

**Jane Farrall** has worked as a school and adult service based speech pathologist and literacy teacher. She has also worked as an assistive technology specialist and is currently working as an independent consultant in literacy, AAC and Assistive Technology. Jane has been working in the disability and assistive technology field for over 25 years. She has extensive practical experience in both Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and in teaching children and adults with disabilities to acquire literacy. She has completed a Masters in Special Education focusing on literacy acquisition in children and adults without speech. Jane is a former Chairperson of AGOSCI (Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment) and is the founder and organiser of the Big Mouth Camp, a camp for school aged students using speech generating devices and their families. You can get more information about Jane at her website [www.janefarrall.com](http://www.janefarrall.com).