

# COACHING FOR COMMUNICATION PARTNERS

Using the “Empowering Parents for AAC” Approach  
A two day workshop for professionals who support children to use AAC

## WORKSHOP CONTENT

Coaching for Communication Partners is a 2-day professional development workshop that is grounded in current AAC research. It provides professionals working in the field of AAC a framework for coaching communication partners (including parents, family, and educators) in how to use supportive AAC strategies. The workshop combines information sharing, demonstration, videos, group discussions, and multiple opportunities to practice the coaching skills. Participants will leave with a framework for coaching communication partners, as well as a set of instructional resources.

**Day 1** - Shares evidence-based strategies that have been shown to help children develop their communication skills using AAC, and how to break these down into achievable goals.

**Day 2** - Introduces a coaching model that can be used with the communication partners of children who use AAC.

## Why is the implementation of AAC often unsuccessful for children?

The strategies needed to support children to use AAC are complex and need to be used with skill and nuance. We know that communication partners, such as parents, family, and educators play a key role in helping to make AAC successful, but they are often not provided with adequate support. One-off training is not enough! Communication partners benefit from a coaching approach to learn these complex skills and apply them successfully.

Coaching for Communication Partners is presented by Sam Brydon. It was designed in collaboration with: Associate Professor Sally Clendon, Associate Professor Tara McLaughlin, and Dr Elizabeth Doell, Massey University, New Zealand, and uses a coaching model that was developed in partnership with Practice Based Coaching Aotearoa.

## TESTIMONIALS

"I would highly recommend this workshop, which I think would be beneficial for ALL SLTs. It is jam packed with AAC gems, unpacks what coaching is all about and its relevance to our everyday mahi."

"I highly recommend Sam's Coaching Communication Partners workshop. It's been really comprehensive and so valuable. It's given me a chance to reflect on why AAC implementation may not have been as successful in the past, and most importantly, what I can do going forward to support. I found the real-life examples and practical implementation so helpful, and I've come away with lots of ideas and areas to focus on!"



## THE PRESENTER

Sam Brydon is a speech and language therapist with over 20 years of experience in both the UK and New Zealand, and a passion for AAC. She has recently completed doctoral research that looked at the effects of providing training and coaching support to parents when they were implementing a core board with their children.