

# Training Courses for 2011

One-day and accredited training  
in understanding and using  
assistive communication



# One-day training courses

**10% Discount**  
when you book and pay for two courses at the same time

It's vital that all those involved in enabling and assisting communication have a good knowledge of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT). Our trainers have many years of experience in their fields, and our delivery is based on an effective blend of practical teaching and case studies. All our day courses are held at the ACE Centre and run from 10am to 3.30pm. The cost is £160 per delegate and a light buffet lunch is provided.

## Moving on from PECS

**Tuesday 8 March 2011**

Children with autism or autistic features who have been using the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) may be able to benefit from using a variety of different forms of AAC. This course will show you how the carefully structured use of communication aids and computers can help to facilitate this support. There will be opportunities for you to discuss case studies and explore materials, voice output communication aids and software to support young people ready to move on from PECS.

This course is suitable for speech and language therapists and assistants teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nurses and parents.

## Getting it down on paper

**Thursday 5 May 2011**

How do children with physical and communication difficulties record their ideas on paper? This course looks at software available to support children from the pre-literacy to fluent literacy stages. For example, technology, techniques and software that gives powerful visual and auditory support for the emergent stages. And for children moving towards greater literacy you'll explore word prediction, word banks, mind mapping and screen readers, plus accessibility features within Windows. There will be an opportunity to discuss case studies and to explore some of the software in a 'hands-on' session.

Suitable for advisory teachers, teachers and teaching assistants in both mainstream and special schools.

“ Thank you for the inspiration.  
I have something to work towards!

**For more details of any of these courses visit [www.ace-centre.org.uk](http://www.ace-centre.org.uk)**

## Making sense of eye gaze technology

**Tuesday 10 May 2011**

Eye gaze can be daunting. New products are coming on to the market all the time, and identifying the most appropriate and cost-effective system while ensuring the successful implementation can be difficult and time consuming. We've been actively following the development of this technology, and this course will share our experiences and lessons learned when introducing eye gaze to individuals. It will use case study material to highlight factors for success as well as the challenges posed. You'll be able to try a number of different eye gaze systems, including the Tobii devices, the ECOpoint and the ALEA Intelligaze.

Suitable for speech and language therapists and assistants, occupational therapists, teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nurses and parents.

## On a shoestring

**Thursday 16 June 2011**

Communication aids, access devices in all shapes and sizes, adapted toys, computers and software... how can you make it all cost effective? This course will explore low-cost solutions – converting and modifying switch toys, and how to control TVs and computers by adapting software such as The Grid 2.

The course will also look at open-source or free resources – everything from symbol libraries to open eye gaze systems. It will compare software such as The Grid and Tobii Communicator with its open source or free alternatives, examining the relative strengths and limitations. You'll be discussing case studies and exploring products during 'hands on' sessions, so if you're a technically-minded occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, assistant, teacher, teaching assistant or parent, this is a course for you.

## Giving people a voice

**Tuesday 28 June 2011**

An introduction to the world of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). AAC describes the methods which enable people with communication difficulties to express themselves. This course will introduce you to why AAC is used, who it is for, and its benefits. It will look at 'low tech' systems using symbols/photos/pictures, 'high tech' options (voice output communication aids), how to introduce switches, vocabulary, and strategies for effective implementation of AAC. There will be opportunities for you to explore examples of AAC through video case studies, demonstrations and 'hands-on' sessions.

Suitable for speech and language therapists and assistants, occupational therapists, teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nurses and parents.

# Accredited training courses

High quality, comprehensive CPD for anyone working with people with complex communication needs and/or physical difficulties. The emphasis on work-based practice will encourage you to develop your knowledge and enhance your day-to-day working practices. The courses combine distance learning with attendance at four day sessions, and they are accredited by Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). The cost for each course is £800, plus a further fee per course for accreditation.

## Assistive Technology Unit (2011)

30 Credits Postgrad, 10 or 20 credits Undergrad  
15 February, 1 March, 15 March, 29 March

This popular course gives an overview of assistive technology that's used to support communication and learning. It offers an excellent baseline for the establishment of multi-agency specialist support teams, and can be delivered regionally. Areas covered in the course include:

- Assessment
- Access and positioning
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Recording information using symbols, images, sound and text

## Accreditation: Your Choice

### Flexible routes to qualifications

Build your own route to qualifications, pursuing areas of interest that are relevant to your working environment.

### Qualifications

You will receive a certificate from the ACE Centre on completion of each course. In addition, you can also choose to receive Credits from MMU. These points can be combined to attain a range of professional qualifications at postgraduate and undergraduate level:

#### Postgraduate Level

Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits)  
Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits)  
Masters Degree (180 credits)

#### Undergraduate Level

Certificate in Professional Studies (60 credits)  
Certificate in Professional Studies Stage 1 (30 credits)

### Prior experience and learning

It may be possible to accredit prior and parallel experience and learning through MMU for additional CAT points.

## Access and Control Unit (2011)

30 Credits Postgrad, 10 or 20 credits Undergrad  
8 February, 5 April, 21 June, 4 Oct

This Unit considers issues involved in the access and control of technology for communication and learning. The emphasis is on client-centred, collaborative team working. Included is a detailed look at the assessment and implementation process, issues around seating and positioning to improve control, and the appropriate mounting of equipment. Participants will critically examine a range of hardware, software and strategies that are available to support access and control.

## Augmentative & Alternative Communication Unit (2010/11)

30 Credits Postgrad, 10 or 20 credits Undergrad  
2 November, 11 January 2011: 22 March, 7 June

This Unit takes a detailed look at issues surrounding the assessment and implementation of Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC), with an emphasis on client-centred, collaborative team working. Participants are encouraged to critically evaluate low, light and high tech AAC systems and strategies, and to consider issues surrounding their support and use. Software, hardware and strategies to support access to AAC are also an integral part of the course.

## Getting it Down on Paper (2010/11)

30 Credits Postgrad, 10 or 20 credits Undergrad  
21 October 2010, 20 January, 24 March, 16 June

A four-day accredited training course that's perfect for anyone working with pupils with complex communication needs and physical difficulties. You'll learn about the technology and techniques available to help these pupils record their work in the most efficient and effective way possible. Includes a detailed look at supportive software that uses symbols, images and assisted text entry to record a wide variety of subjects including English, maths and science. The emphasis during the four non-consecutive days is on work-based practice.

Similar courses are also available in Oldham from ACE Centre North. Visit [www.ace-north.org.uk](http://www.ace-north.org.uk) or contact the Training Coordinator on 0161 358 0151

# Other training at the ACE Centre

## Customised Training

Half or full day training sessions at the ACE Centre or your venue where YOU choose the hands-on training you want. For example, you could spend the time with our speech and language therapists discussing signs, symbols or speech output devices, or try out access devices with our occupational therapists.

## Information Days

A free one and a half hour demonstration or discussion session about any specific communication method or technology. Parents of young people with communication difficulties are welcome, although we regret that it's NOT possible to bring the young person under discussion along to these sessions. By appointment only.

## Day and accredited course booking forms

### Day Course Booking Form

Please complete one form per delegate and return to:  
**The Training Coordinator, ACE Centre, 92 Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7DR**

Name: .....

Occupation and place of work: .....

Address: .....

Daytime telephone number: .....

Email address: .....

Course title(s) and date(s) – max of two courses on one form: .....

**Course Fees:** £160.00 course per delegate, or **£290 for two courses if booked and paid for at the same time!** Please attach a cheque made payable to the **ACE Centre Advisory Trust** or complete the following:

Invoice to (name and address): .....

Payment must be received before the course to secure a place. Note that this fee is nonrefundable unless notification of non-attendance has been received at least two weeks prior to the date of the course. We will send you an acknowledgment of receipt of your completed booking form.

Coffee/tea and lunch is provided. Please indicate any special dietary or other requirements: .....

How did you hear about our training?: .....

We'd like to update you occasionally about our other services. If you would prefer us not to do this, please tick this box:

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Name: .....

Occupation and place of work: .....

Address: .....

Daytime telephone number: .....

Email address: .....

Unit title(s) for which you are applying: .....

**Course Fees:** See inside for our current course fees\*. Payment is required to secure your application but a place will be provisionally reserved on receipt of this form. Payment must be received at least one month prior to the first course day. Please attach a cheque made payable to the **ACE Centre Advisory Trust** or complete the following:

Invoice to (name and address): .....

\*Note that any fees are non-refundable unless notification of non-attendance is received at least two weeks prior to the date of the course, so that the place can be re-allocated from the waiting list. We will send you an acknowledgment of receipt of your completed application form and deposit/payment.

Coffee/tea and lunch is provided. Please indicate any special dietary or other requirements: .....

How did you hear about our training?: .....

We'd like to update you occasionally about our other services. If you would prefer us not to do this, please tick this box: