

The Diary of a Workshop Presenter: building capacity for communication partners

Kate Munro¹

¹ Two Way Street

Short Abstract

The Diary of a Workshop Presenter offers a peek behind the scenes of our journey in building capacity for communication partners through workshops, consultations, and other dynamic services. We share what makes our most popular workshops—focusing on communication autonomy, belonging, connection, and opportunity—successful, while also reflecting on questions that frequently arise from teachers, support workers, speech pathologists, and others. Along the way, we've celebrated successes and taken on learning opportunities, adjusting our approach to better meet participants' needs. These workshops fit into the larger framework of supporting AAC users in everyday life, and our next steps are focused on expanding and refining these services further. Come join us as we unlock the diary of a workshop presenter!

Long Abstract

The Diary of a Workshop Presenter explores the process of creating and delivering workshops aimed at building capacity for communication partners. Through this lens, we reflect on what's worked, what hasn't, and how we've adapted along the way. We will look at our most requested workshops and how the focus on communication partner education, implementing AAC systems, and promoting autonomy for AAC users changes depending on what they've requested. These workshops often attract teachers, support workers, and speech pathologists, who bring with them a range of questions—from how to practically apply AAC tools in everyday settings to concepts about communication autonomy and belonging.

One of the successes we've seen is the engagement and confidence that builds when communication partners feel equipped to support AAC users in real-world scenarios. But we've also encountered challenges. Some strategies didn't land as expected, and those moments became valuable learning opportunities—helping us reshape content, introduce more interactive elements, and refine our approach.

Each workshop contributes to the broader picture of supporting people who use AAC, ensuring their voices are heard in the communities they live in. Looking ahead, the next chapter involves expanding our reach, enhancing our content based on feedback, and continuing to empower both communication partners and people who use AAC to navigate their journeys with more understanding of the "why" behind what we do and how we do it. Come join us as we unlock the diary of a workshop presenter!