



PRESENTING:
RACHEL MADEL
M.A., CCC-SLP

**AAC Essentials:
What Every Communication Partner Needs to Know**

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**REGISTER
NOW!**

Viscount Gort Hotel
Banquet and Conference Centre
1670 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Monday, March 23, 2026
9am - 4pm
(registration 8:30am)

Rachel Madel M.A.,CCC-SLP is a Los Angeles-based speech-language pathologist dedicated to coaching parents and professionals on how to incorporate technology to best support speech and language development. Rachel has presented both nationally and abroad to over 40,000 educators and parents on the use of augmentative alternative communication (AAC). When she's not working with individuals in her private practice she co-hosts a weekly podcast called "*Talking With Tech*" that focuses on best practices in AAC and has over 1.5 million downloads. She is the founder of a digital media company that provides educational resources, therapy materials and courses to help support parents and professionals. Her work has been featured in the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC), Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA), PrAACtical AAC, Autism Parenting Magazine, Uniquely Human, Sensational Brain, Closing the Gap and #TalkingAAC.

RACHEL'S SOCIAL MEDIA SITES:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rachelmadelslp
Facebook: www.facebook.com/rachelmadelslp
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@rachelmadelslp>
Podcast: www.talkingwithtech.org
Website: www.rachelmadel.com
Freebie Vault Link: www.rachelmadel.com/optin



AAC Essentials: What Every Communication Partner Needs to Know

This interactive learning experience explores innovative, evidence-informed approaches to supporting language acquisition for students of all ages and communication profiles. By creating enriched communication environments, participants will learn how to increase meaningful language opportunities within everyday routines while honoring diverse language learning pathways, including gestalt language processing.

Participants will gain practical insights into current best practices for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), including supporting language development, selecting robust and functional vocabulary, and fostering sustained engagement among AAC users. The session will also address advanced-level topics related to AAC assessment and implementation, with strategies for identifying and reducing common barriers through a coaching-centered model.

In addition, the presentation will introduce the thoughtful integration of AI-supported tools—such as ChatGPT—to help streamline therapy planning, generate reflective prompts, support documentation, and improve efficiency without replacing clinical judgment. These tools will be taught as supports for enhancing decision-making, tracking progress, and improving outcomes for AAC users.

The session will emphasize building the skills and confidence of communication partners and demonstrate how coaching-based training can empower parents, educators, and support staff to promote consistent AAC use across environments. Through collaborative practices, emerging technology, and a strengths-based lens, participants will leave with actionable strategies to support meaningful, lifelong communication growth.

Early Bird on or before Feb. 13, 2026

Professionals: \$160.00

Para-Professionals/Family: \$90.00

Feb. 14, 2026 and onward

Professionals: \$200.00

Para-Professionals/Family: \$105.00

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Click on the "Register Now" button to register and pay with a credit card. For information about alternate payment methods, please email Marnie at marnie@oarc.ca or call 204-949-2430.

March 23rd, 2026 Event Schedule

8:30-9:00am	Registration
9:00-11:45am	Morning Session (includes 15 min refreshment break)
11:45am-1:00pm	Lunch Break (lunch is NOT included)
1:00-4:00pm	Afternoon Session (includes 15 min refreshment break)

PLEASE NOTE:

By registering for this conference you hereby give OARC permission to take your photograph as an attendee throughout the conference on an informal basis for future promotional purposes, unless you inform OARC otherwise.

A \$25 cancellation fee will be charged for any refunds prior to February 23rd, 2026. No refund for cancellations will be issued after this date. Substitutions welcome.

Viscount Gort Hotel special room rate of \$150.00 plus taxes applies for conference guests must be booked by February 23rd, 2026. Call 204-775-0451 or 1-800-665-1122 direct and ask for a room from the block "Open Access Resource Centre".

Tickets will be sold for a player's choice raffle (3 tickets for \$5). Prizes will be drawn at the end of the conference. You must be in attendance to win.



We are no longer reserving tables in advance for groups. Please arrive early to ensure your group can sit together.



Contact: Marnie Loewen marnie@oarc.ca
OARC, 316 Tache Ave, Winnipeg MB 204-949-2430 oarc@oarc.ca
