Summary from “Planting Two Trees with One Seed: AAC Supports for Problem Behavior in Children with ASD”

April 29, 2016 at the Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) Conference in Halifax Nova Scotia

Dr. Mirenda shared an extremely informative presentation regarding problem behavior in children with ASD. She expressed the importance of implementing a thorough Functional Behavioral Analysis (FBA) prior to implementing supports. Specific steps of the FBA were explained and practice identifying setting events, antecedents, behaviors, and consequences were practiced. Dr. Mirenda also provided examples of research to back up many familiar supports; thus validating their necessity. These supports included visual schedules, within activity schedules, and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices. Intervention strategies and techniques were demonstrated to provide participants with practical ideas for therapy. She also shared information about a support that many participants were not familiar with- the Contingency Map- and explained how this tool could be effective in therapy. The presentation was informative, highly entertaining, and above all, extremely practical to my work as a Speech Language Pathologist and Autism Support Consultant.