**Summary of Sessions Attended at SAC National Conference**

**April 28-30, 2016**

**Tools for Supporting Children’s Reading Development: Focusing on Building Blocks of Language by Helene Deacon**

This half day session focused on the key building blocks of language: roots and affixes and how children naturally use these to understand complex words and spell them. Suggestions for how we might support school age children in building on these skills to optimize vocabulary and reading development were provided.

**Text Comprehension: Scaffolding Active Strategic Reading by Dr. Teresa Ukrainetz**

This half day workshop built on the concept thatunderstanding and learning from academic texts involves purposeful, strategic reading. Although there is considerable evidence on what makes an effective and comprehensive reading instruction program, S-LPs need to be strategic about their roles within this large picture. An aspect of this instruction program that is particularly suited to the expertise and resources of S-LPs involves teaching students to use text comprehension strategies, such as text preview, summarization, and comprehension monitoring in their academic reading and learning. This talk presented the research evidence on strategy instruction, including the use of explicit instruction, spoken interactions around text, cognitive modeling, peer learning, classroom connections and disciplinary literacy. Further suggestions on transferring comprehension strategies from teaching tools of the S-LP to learning tools of the student were also provided.

**Planting Two Trees With One Seed: AAC Supports for Problem Behaviour in Children With ASD by Dr. Pat Mirenda**

This full day presentation focused on evidence-based augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and problem behaviour. Dr. Mirenda reviewed strategies, including augmented input support, such as visual schedules and contingency maps as well as augmented output interventions such as functional communication training and choice-making support. Case study examples and videos were used throughout the presentation to highlight the approaches.

**Making a Difference: Best Treatment Practices for Pre-School and School-Aged Children’s Speech Sound Disorders by Debra Goshulak, M.H.Sc.**

This full day session provided a review of information about various speech sound disorders and then proceeded to focus on the development of effective and meaningful goals, vocabulary and therapy techniques for children with speech sound disorders.