



## ***Giving Students with Significant Disabilities & Complex Communication Needs Access to Communication, Academics & Leisure - Yes They Can!***

**Presented by:  
Gretchen Hanser PhD, MS, OTR/L**

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Do your students have significant physical challenges that make it difficult for them to do basic classroom tasks? Are they having trouble accessing an augmentative & alternative communication device (AAC)? Are they struggling to use switches? Do they have Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI)? Do not fear - some solutions are near! The first part of the day will be an overview of AAC and a framework for determining how students can access an AAC device. As this population of students may need time to develop physical access skills, the bulk of the day will be spent on ways to teach physical access during motivating, purposeful activities. Participants will learn about a wide range of assistive technology (AT) and supports, such as alternative pencils, computer/iPad access tools for books & games, accessible classroom tools, and AT for play & leisure activities! The focus will be on the activities and how the AT is woven in to give students access throughout the day. While multiple access methods will be shown, switch access for students with CVI will be highlighted. Many resources, real kid pictures and videos will be shown throughout the day. Participants will leave with a Monday morning to do list!

**Monday, March 4th, 2024**

**In-person | 8:00am- 4:00pm**

**Elgin Community College, Auditorium, Bldg E**

**Continental Breakfast & Lunch Buffet Included**

**6.5  
CEU  
CREDITS**

**For more information, please email inquiries to [pd@thenia.org](mailto:pd@thenia.org)**