

HDC Mission

The Human Development Center (HDC) was established in 1974 as Louisiana's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, one of a network of 67 UCEDDs across the country.

Our mission is to strengthen and increase the capacity of local communities to support and include individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in all aspects of life in the community.



What are unique communication needs?

Most students use listening, speaking, reading, and writing to communicate. Some student, because of disabilities in hearing, seeing, thinking, and moving require alternative means.

- **Communication disorders** are considered a high-incidence disabilities. Approximately 20% of children receiving special education services are receiving services for communication disorders. This estimate does not include children who receive services for communication disorders that are secondary to other conditions such as deafness and blindness.
- More than one-half (55.2%) of all 3-, 4-, and 5-year olds with a disability receive services for communication disorders.
- Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is an umbrella term that encompasses communication methods used to supplement or replace listening, speaking, reading, and writing for those with impairments in the comprehension or production of spoken and written language.
- AAC systems are diverse: unaided communication uses no equipment and includes signing and body language while aided approaches use external tools.
- Students with hearing and vision losses may use assistive technology to communicate.

For more information about the
**Collaborative for
Students with Unique
Communication needs contact:**

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Visit the CSUCN website at
<http://www.hdc.lsuhs.edu/csucn>

**Collaborative for
Students with
Unique
Communication
Needs**

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Collaborative Faculty

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Participation Process

Step 1

- Choose two students as exemplars:
 - Preschool student with a cochlear implant
 - Student of any age with a complex communication need
- Obtain permission and agreement from students' parents to participate in the training process

Step 2

- Recruit District/School Teams
- One team for each student chosen
- Recommended team composition: 1 Special Educator, 1 General Educator, 1 Paraprofessional, 1 Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist, 1 Occupational or Physical Therapist, 1 Parent

Step 3

- Allow teams to attend two-day training at your Louisiana Assistive Technology (LATI) Regional Center
- 2017 Training Dates:
 - Jan 12 & 13
 - March 20 & 21
 - Sep 21 & 22

Step 4

- Allow teams to participate in three month coaching activities
- Provide District/School Teams access to Project faculty for on-site and remote coaching, consultation and mentoring

Step 5

- Allow teams to attend and participate in the CONNECTIONS 2007 conference
- Conference tentatively scheduled for August 25, 2017 at the LSU Health New Orleans Human Development Center, New Orleans, LA

Collaborative for Students with Unique Communication Needs

LSU Health New Orleans
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