

## **iShare: Using Technology to Facilitate Pragmatic, Language and Writing Skills in Clinical and Educational Settings**

*McKay Moore Sohlberg, PhD; Lynn Fox, PhD; Deanne Nelson, MS; Katie Gray, MA & Jennifer Larsen, PhD*

We will describe an adapted electronic communication program, iShare, for adolescents with language and communication impairments. The program facilitates email exchange, blogging and writing skills for students who are unable to use commercial electronic programs or need supports. Results and clinical implications of iShare by four special education teachers and two SLPs running clinic-based language groups will be shared.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the features that make electronic communication accessible for students/clients with communication deficits.
- Describe three different applications for working on written language or social pragmatics goals using electronic communication.
- Describe methods for electronically evaluating and providing feedback to students/clients.

**McKay Moore Sohlberg, PhD**, is a Full Professor in CDS at the University of Oregon. She is a nationally recognized researcher in the field of cognitive rehabilitation and is supported by a number of federal grants for the development and evaluation of assistive technology for cognition. Dr. Sohlberg has been involved in the development of national evidence-based practice guidelines for the treatment of traumatic brain injury.

**Lynn E. Fox, PhD**, is Associate Professor Emerita at Portland State University. Her research interests emphasize AAC and social communication for individuals with acquired neurogenic disorders. She recently served as principal investigator on a related Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) technology grant that developed an accessible computing tool for people with cognitive and language impairment.

**Deanne Nelson, MS**, graduated with an M.S. degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Oregon. Deanne has been employed at the Artz Center for Developmental Health and Audiology since 1991. During that time she has provided direct individual and group speech therapy. Her caseload consists of children with developmental delays, articulation and phonological disorders, Autism, Asperger's and language disorders. Deanne is the lead therapist in the design and implementation of the social communication groups.

**Katharine Gray, MA**, is a Speech Language Pathologist at the Artz Center for Developmental Health and Audiology. Her areas of clinical interest include autism spectrum disorder and reading/language disorders. She enjoys leading social communication groups. She has received additional training in PROMPT, DIR/ Floortime, and the Autism Parent Training Program.

**Jennifer Larsen, PhD**, is the Director of the Language and Literacy Program at the Artz Center for Developmental Health and Audiology. Her interests include intervention for literacy deficits associated with language disorders in school-aged children and adolescents, as well as clinical training and supervision.