

## NEAT Workshops and Events | 2017/2018

**NEAT is running!**



NEAT staff members have joined the Chapter 126 5k Race Team for the Hartford Marathon on Saturday, October 14, 2017.

We'd love to have YOU too! **Every dollar that Team Chapter 126 raises will be used to provide financial assistance for adaptive athletes and individuals with disabilities.** It will enable them to participate in sports and fitness programs at Chapter 126. This contribution will help to make a life-changing impact on someone's life! Register today at <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/25335> use the following code: **CHARITYOH17**.

If you cannot join us on the day of the race but wish to be there in spirit, please consider supporting our team at <https://www.crowdrise.com/chapter-126-EversourceHartfordMarathon2016>.



Date: October 27, 2017  
Location: The Water's Edge Inn and Resort; Westbrook, CT  
Keynote: Detecting, Diagnosing, and Understanding Dyslexia  
Nadine Gaab, Ph. D.  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School  
Breakout Sessions and Exhibitors included in the Agenda.

**NEAT's AT Specialist, Jane Lefante, can be found in the exhibiting hall. Stop by and ask her about how Assistive Technology can support students with Dyslexia.**

## Engineering Core Vocabulary into Your Classroom: The Where, the What, and the How!



“Core vocabulary” is a buzz phrase that has emerged and exploded within the field of augmentative and alternative communication in recent years. Professionals are beginning to understand core vocabulary as it is defined, but the implementation process of such words continues to be a widespread challenge. Using case studies, product demonstrations, and systematic lesson plan designs, this presentation will focus on moving teams beyond the basic definition of core vocabulary and towards consistent and successful application of these high frequency words. Ultimately, teams will learn methods for designing language-based classrooms wherein targeted vocabulary becomes incorporated naturally. When utilized appropriately, core vocabulary can become the stem from which all other learning and development grows.

Objective 1: Identify at least two classroom areas or activities wherein core vocabulary can be incorporated.

Objective 2: List at least two technology tools and their uses for teaching core vocabulary.

Objective 3: Create a take-home AAC Instruction Plan to systematically implement core vocabulary.

Date and Time: Wednesday, November 1, 2017 | 9 am – 12 pm  
*Registration begins at 8:30 am*

Location: New England Assistive Technology (NEAT),  
33 Coventry Street, Hartford, CT

Fee: \$75 for members / \$100 for non-members  
*Includes Contact Hours*

Presenter: Elena Fader, M.A., CCC-SLP, Assistive Technology Specialist



### Assistive Technology Conference of New England

On November 31<sup>st</sup> and December 1, 2017, the Assistive Technology Conference of New England will be held in Warwick, RI. TechACCESS hosts this incredible conference which is full of diverse presentations and delivered by national speakers and experts in the field of AT. NEAT is proud to announce that we will have a significant presence there this year. Our incredibly talented staff will be presenting their vast knowledge and will be available for networking opportunities.

Here is what you can expect from NEAT:

- A full-day, preconference session on “**Autism, Apps, and AT... oh my!**“, by Nicole Feeney
- Our 75 minute sessions include
  - **Meltdowns, Movement, Anxiety, and Agita: Can Assistive Technology Help?**, by Jane Lefante
  - **Engineering Core Vocabulary into Your Classroom: The Where, the What, and the How!**, by Elena Fader
  - **The Journey to Independence**, by Steve Famiglietti
  - **Utilizing Smart Technology to Combat Social Isolation for the Aging in Place Community**, by Kris Thompson
- And Don Hoerman in the exhibit hall featuring NEAT’s Equipment Restoration Center (ERC)

To register or simply find out more about the Assistive Technology Conference of New England, visit <http://www.assistivetechologyconference.com/>. We would love to see you there!

## Banishing Barriers: An Exploration of AAC Access Methods



Physical disabilities are common barriers that interfere with successful access to augmentative and alternative communication. Individuals with physical disabilities who are unable to use traditional direct selection methods nonetheless have a basic human right to communicate. Teams within all settings, including schools and medical facilities, must consider creative ways to provide these individuals with access to communication. This full-day workshop will explore tools along the assistive technology continuum, ranging from using a stylus or keyguard to incorporating switches and eye gaze systems. Using case studies and hands-on activities, participants will learn innovative approaches to discovering a user's access point and access method for attaining communication. Resources will be shared to facilitate a team's consideration process.

*Note: The presenter is a speech-language pathologist, not an occupational therapist or physical therapist. Team collaboration during an evaluation is always encouraged.*

Objective 1: Recognize three types of AT tools that can be used to support alternative access to AAC.

Objective 2: List two considerations to make when identifying an access solution.

Objective 3: Simulate use of one alternative access method to enhance perspective and understanding.

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 | 9 am – 3 pm

*Registration begins at 8:30 am*

Location: New England Assistive Technology (NEAT),  
33 Coventry Street, Hartford, CT

Fee: \$100 for members / \$150 for non-members

*Includes Contact Hours*

Presenter: Elena Fader, M.A., CCC-SLP, Assistive Technology Specialist

