I. The Best Practices

1. Functional Outcomes
2. Instruction in Natural Settings
3. Teaching Communication as an Embedded Skill
4. Training Communication Partners
5. Age appropriate activities as possible.
6. Practice in natural settings
7. Increase number and types of environments
II. Early Intervention and AAC

A. Communication starts with Interaction (Cress: www.unl.edu/barkley/present/cress/cress.html)
   1. Spontaneous Behavior to Intentional Behavior
   2. Basic AAC Intervention includes behaviors, gestures, cooperative actions, sounds and does not depend upon controlling complex devices.
   4. The Key is making it meaningful to the child.

B. Early Intervention Treatment Strategies
   1. Increase the precursors
   2. Increase initiation
   3. Pay attention to the number of communicative “tools” required in a task.
   4. Use “normal” interactive activities (e.g., repetitive songs and books, operating toys, greetings)
   5. Keep it simple: remember that typically developing children use one word to express a wide variety of communicative functions for well over a year.

II. Class Activities
   • Find an IEP goal that represents each of the Best Practices
   • Choose 1 life story, read it as a group and then find an example of 4 of the best practices.
   • Develop treatment activity and demonstrate it to class:
     • With VOCA
     • Using Presymbolic Ideas
     • Using Lloyd and Fuller ideas
III. Example of AAC Tx

A. YL Age 4:9 with Mild Cerebral Palsy
   1. Highly Motivating Activities
   2. Frequently Occurring Activities