Expanding Environments: a deep dive into mobility, access and connectivity

Two Day (1.4 CEU)

Course Description:

This course will outline the steps necessary to find access for patients with the most complex needs. It will help with strategies for functional seating, access methods and training for more successful outcomes. It will break down the steps and strategies for effective training and will demonstrate why some strategies are ineffective for functional independence.

We will discuss seating for access and the difference between passive seating and active functional positions. It will explain steps for successful activity-based training.

Attendees will participate in a seating lab that will show why some clients are not successful with access to technology and discuss seating strategies that will support successful outcomes. They will view wheelchairs with the current electronics that are available and discuss how to identify components necessary to connect technology.

Participants will view client case studies that demonstrate different strategies for access to powered mobility, seat functions, communication devices, phones and tablets and how to integrate these systems to promote independence.

Finally, the class attendees will participate in a hand’s on lab where they will be required to drive power chairs with alternative access, use the seat functions through the drive control, and set up the chair to access a communication device, computer, phone, tablet and games through the drive control.

Objectives:

1. Apply the principles for functional and passive seating.
2. Recognize the role of powered mobility in determining access for involved clients.
3. Describe and identify 2 components necessary for a clients’ access to powered mobility and other technology.
4. Give examples of alternative access with and without powered mobility
5. Recognize the difference between wheelchair electronics, knowing the difference between them and their capabilities.
6. List components needed to connect a client’s computer, AAC device, phone, or tablet to be used through the drive control of their wheelchair.

Outline:

Day One
8:30-9:00 Course overview and explain learning objectives
9:00-10:00 Seating Lab
10:00-11:30 Apply the basic principles of seating for access
11:30-12:30 Lunch
12:30-1:30 Role of powered mobility in determining access for involved individuals
2:30-3:30 Alternative access: switches, head arrays, modified joysticks, single switch scanner and sip and puff
3:30-4:30 Technology access without powered mobility
4:30-5:00 Question and Answer – Overview

Day Two
8:30-10:00 Recognize the importance of programming power chairs and list components needed to connect power chair to AAC device, phones or computers
10:00-11:30 Hands on Equipment Lab: driving power chairs with alternative access using that access to control seat functions and connecting to AAC devices, computers, phones, and games
11:30-12:30 Lunch
12:00-3:30 Hands on equipment Lab: Continuation
3:30-4:00 Participant feedback on power chairs/alternative access; Overview – Putting it all together
4:00-4:30 Test and class evaluation
4:30-5:00 Tests reviewed and questions answered