Ocala, FL

Transitioning from PECS to Speech Generating Devices
Presented by: Jo-Anne B. Matteo  Hosted by: UF-Gainesville CARD

About the Presenter
Jo-Anne B. Matteo received her M.S. in speech-language pathology from Adelphi University in 1980 and an advanced degree in administration and supervision from Southern Connecticut State University in 1983. As a special education administrator since 1994, she has been involved in staff and program development. She is the founder, speech-language pathologist, and coordinator of a public school program for preschool and elementary children who present with significant special needs in the areas of communicative, cognitive, social, behavioral and motor disabilities. These students have been using PECS to improve functional communication skills while they take part in a classroom that has been implementing the Pyramid Approach to Education. Jo-Anne has presented extensively at various conferences and workshops to parents and professionals in the areas of speech-language development, functional communication, and program design. She is also an active member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Training Description
Target Audience: Educators, Administrators, Professionals, Individuals with ASD & Family Members
With the current influx of communication devices and apps on the market, how do we ensure that basic functional communication skills are maintained and taught the right way from the beginning? Speech generating devices (SGD) were first introduced for people with motor difficulties like cerebral palsy and are now being used by learners with autism and other related communication difficulties. For these populations, language and cognition are often compromised, and basic social and communication skills have not always been mastered prior to the introduction of a device. Because of this, teaching the use of SGDs needs to be specifically tailored to fit the needs of each individual, paying attention to the capabilities of both the device and the user.

Training Objectives
Participants will be able to:
- Analyze their current PECS skills to determine candidacy for transitioning to an SGD.
- Choose and teach functional use of a device.
- Teach the basic principles of communication to ensure positive outcomes are achieved.