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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS**
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The purpose of this form is to provide you with information about taking part in a research study. Please read this form carefully. The following research study is being conducted as part of the student investigators’ Master’s capstone research project at Mercy College. The principle investigator of this research study is Dr. Helen Buhler, who can be contacted by email at hbuhler@mercy.edu. If you have any questions about the research or any portion of this form, please feel free to ask the student investigators or Dr. Buhler.

**Purpose of this Research**

To determine speech-language pathologists’ (SLPs) and classroom teachers’ perceptions and confidence levels of augmentative and alternative communication device (AAC) usage. AAC devices (i.e., gestures, electronic devices, and picture boards) are an alternative means of communication for individuals who present with significant speech or language deficits. Using AAC devices allow individuals to express their wants, needs, and ideas. The research on the perception and confidence levels of AAC use is outdated, and often limited to SLPs. It is essential that all professionals who work with children that use AAC devices have a thorough understanding of how the devices are operated. AAC training is imperative in all settings to maximize each child’s potential for successful AAC communication.

**Why have you been asked to Participate?**

You have been asked because you have frequent exposure to AAC devices and the children who use them. Before the survey, you will be provided with a clear explanation of instructions. If you do not wish to participate in this study, or would like to discontinue the survey at any point, you may do so. This survey should take no longer than 15 minutes. You will be asked to sign this consent form to grant us permission to use your responses in our research study. All responses will remain confidential and no personal information will be documented. Data will not be shared with anyone other than the principal investigator and the student investigators.

**Time Required:**

The survey should take approximately 7 minutes, allotting 2 minutes for questions relating to socio- demographic information.
**Risks:**
Although all research carries risk, this study will not place any participants in harms way. Additionally, the risks of participating in a confidential survey are minimal. This survey requires participants to answer questions about their usage and perception/attitudes related to AAC.

**Your Rights as a Subject:**

Participants reserve the right to decide whether to participate in the study without being pressured and can withdraw from it at any time without penalty. Participants have a right to keep a copy of the consent form, which details why the research is being conducted. Participants also reserve the right to know how their private information will be kept safe and any risk, side effects, and pain this study may cause. It must be noted that the researchers of this study do not foresee any risks, side effects, or pain to the participants of this study.

**If you are willing to participate in our survey please follow the link below.**

**[Click Here](https://redcap.mercy.edu/surveys/?s=ELTNFTC99M)**