



Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD)

2-Day Introductory Workshop

November 9 and 10, 2026

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

John W. Lindsay YMCA

5640 Sackville St, Halifax

(Accessible entrance off South Park Street, Halifax)

Presented by River Wilson, MSc-SLP CCC-SLP

This PODD introductory workshop teaches the theory and practice of implementing PODD communication books.

PODD communication books can assist people with communication disabilities to support their use and understanding of language. PODD is a tool providing organized vocabulary that enables users to communicate spontaneous and unpredicted messages. PODD communication books are designed for varying language, communication, sensory and physical access needs.

This workshop is for speech-language pathologists, teachers, caregivers, assistants, and any other professional or community member who implements and supports Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) language systems. PODD books can be meaningful AAC systems for children and adults with a variety of diagnoses, including cerebral palsy, global developmental delay, Down syndrome, and autism.

Participants will learn:

- Strategies for teaching and using PODD with children and their communication partners
- Strategies for creating multi-modal language learning environments that provide receptive models and expressive opportunities for language development

About the Instructor

J. River Wilson, MSc-SLP CCC-SLP | Certified PODD Trainer. Born and raised in Edmonton (where it's a "dry cold"), River Wilson graduated with her MSc-SLP in 2006. She developed her passion for AAC at the I CAN Centre working with adults, later joining the Edmonton Public Schools AAC team in 2017 after starting her family. Mentored by Gayle Porter to become a Certified PODD Trainer in 2024, River is dedicated to teaching proper AAC implementation that works in real life. When she isn't working, she's following the Edmonton Oilers and Toronto Blue Jays.



Registration

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Participant Name: _____
Affiliation/Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province/State: _____ Postal /Zip Code: _____
Phone (cell): _____ Alternate phone: _____
Email: _____

List any dietary, allergy or accessibility needs:

Course Fee & Payment: \$700 CDN
Registration Deadline: October 2, 2026

All breaks, lunch, and course materials are included in price of registration.

☐ **Payment by Cheque**

- **MAIL** OR **EMAIL** COMPLETED FORM
- **MAIL** CHEQUE TO **HEARING AND SPEECH NOVA SCOTIA** (ADDRESS BELOW)

Hearing and Speech Nova Scotia
5657 Spring Garden Road, Suite 401, Box 120
Halifax, NS B3J 3R4

Need help, a list of hotel accommodations, or more information?
Call 902-492-8299 or 1-888-780-3330 or email Kimberlee.leslie@nshsc.nshealth.ca

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be received in writing (by email) and are subject to a \$50.00 administration fee. For a full refund, cancellations must be received before October 31, 2026. Cancellations received after October 31, 2026 or “no show” registrations are not eligible for any refund. All refunds will be issued after the workshop. Cancellations related to illness can be received up to and including the day of the event and would qualify for a full refund, subject to a \$50.00 administration fee.

Continuing Education: Certificates of attendance will be provided.