RESEARCH PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND CONSENT SCRIPT

STUDY TITLE: A Solution-Focused Approach to AAC Intervention

VCU INVESTIGATOR: Kristen Monroe, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
804-228-5915
Kristen.monroe@vcuhealth.org

NOTE: In this consent form, "you" always refers to the research participant.

ABOUT THIS CONSENT FORM

You are being invited to participate in a research study. **It is important that you carefully think about whether being in this study is right for you and your situation.**

This consent form is meant to assist you in thinking about whether or not you want to be in this study. **Please ask the investigator or the study staff to explain any information in this consent document that is not clear to you.**

Your participation is voluntary. You may decide not to participate in this study. If you do participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time. Your decision not to take part or to withdraw will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AND KEY INFORMATION

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of this research study is to provide a professional development opportunity rooted in evidence-based instructional strategies in order to introduce Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) as an intervention approach with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users and their caregivers. We think that instruction in counseling and coaching techniques may help speech-language pathologists (SLPs) effectively engage caregivers to promote successful communication with AAC across environments. This study will allow us to learn whether the training is effective in teaching SFBT concepts and whether SLPs perceive SFBT as an acceptable and feasible intervention approach.

What will happen if I participate?

This study will take place entirely online. In this study, you will be asked to do the following things:

1. Create a personal login on the VCUHealth Cloud CME platform.

2. Complete a demographic information survey.
3. Complete a 35-question pretest. The pretest will consist of questions to assess your knowledge and perception of SFBT.
4. Complete four educational modules at your leisure, lasting a total of approximately one hour.
5. Complete a 35-question posttest. The posttest will consist of questions to assess your knowledge and perception of SFBT.
6. Complete an optional open-ended question regarding your perspective of the training.

Your participation in this study will last up to 2 hours. Approximately 40 individuals will participate in this study. The study portal will be open for six months or until 40 participants have completed the modules, whichever comes first. You are encouraged to complete the module within four weeks of beginning. The study team will receive a list of participants who have registered but have not yet completed the study on a weekly basis. The study team will send reminders by email every 1-2 weeks to help you keep track of your completion timeframe.

Your responses to the demographic data, pretest, and posttest will be visible to staff at the VCUHealth Cloud CME but will be deidentified before being given to the research staff. The research staff will not be able to link your identifying information (e.g., name, date of birth, email address or other contact information, place of work) to your assessment scores.

You will be shown your pretest and posttest scores once you have completed the entire course. However, in order to maintain integrity of the research, correct responses to the assessments will not be given to you upon completion. If you would like to know the correct responses, you may email the study team, and they will provide you a copy of the correct responses at the conclusion of the data collection period. You should not discuss the assessments during or after completion of the training in order to maintain the integrity of the research.

What alternative treatments or procedures are available?

There are no alternative treatments. You may choose not to participate.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

There are both risks and benefits of participating in research studies.

Risks and Discomforts	Benefits to You and Others
• Participation in research might involve some loss of privacy. There is a small risk that someone outside the research study	• You will be given instruction in SFBT techniques at no cost to you.

could see and misuse information about you. • There is minimal risk of loss of confidentiality. The data will be exported in a way that the researcher will not be able to identify who received what scores. However, there is a small risk that data would not be appropriately deidentified due to human error.	• As a part of the training, you will receive digital handouts with tools and strategies to use in your practice. • Members of ASHA will be eligible for 1 hour of CEU upon completion of required components.

Now that you have a general overview of the study, we want to provide the details about what your participation involves. Please read, or have someone read to you, the rest of this document. If there is anything you don't understand, be sure to ask the study staff.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

You will not be charged for any registration fees for the continuing education module.

WILL I BE PAID TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY?

You will be eligible for 1 hour of ASHA CEUs if you finish the study. If you withdraw before the end of the study, you will not be eligible for any credit.

CAN I STOP BEING IN THE STUDY?

You can stop being in this research study at any time. Leaving the study will not affect your medical care, employment status, or academic standing at VCU or VCU Health. Tell the study staff if you are thinking about stopping or decide to stop.

Your participation in this study may be stopped at any time by the investigator without your consent. The reasons might include:

- the investigator thinks it necessary for your health or safety
- you are found to not be eligible for the study
- you have not followed study instructions
- administrative reasons require your withdrawal
- you have not completed the study components within four weeks of beginning.

HOW WILL INFORMATION ABOUT ME BE PROTECTED?

VCU has established secure research databases and computer systems to store information and to help with monitoring and oversight of research. Your information may be kept in these

databases but are only accessible to individuals working on this study or authorized individuals who have access for specific research related tasks.

Identifiable information in these databases are not released outside VCU unless stated in this consent or required by law. Although results of this research may be presented at meetings or in publications, identifiable personal information about participants will not be disclosed.

Personal information about you might be shared with or copied by authorized representatives from the following organizations for the purposes of managing, monitoring and overseeing this study:

- Representatives of VCU and the VCUHealth System
- Staff at the VCUHealth Cloud CME, who will maintain the educational platform for the study and report CEU eligibility upon module completion.

Once the study has been completed, we will send you a summary of all of the results of the study and what they mean. As mentioned above, you will be shown your pretest and posttest scores once you have completed the entire course but the correct answers will not be shared with you at that time. The assessment responses may be shared with you after the data collection period upon request.

In the future, identifiers might be removed from the information you provide in this study, and after that removal, the information could be used for other research studies by this study team or another researcher without asking you for additional consent.

WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STUDY?

The investigator and study staff named below are the best person(s) to contact if you have any questions, complaints, or concerns about your participation in this research:

Kristen Monroe, MS, CCC-SLP

804-228-5915

Kristen.monroe@vcuhealth.org

If you have general questions about your rights as a participant in this or any other research, or if you wish to discuss problems, concerns or questions, to obtain information, or to offer input about research, you may contact:

Virginia Commonwealth University Office of Research
800 East Leigh Street, Suite 3000, Box 980568, Richmond, VA 23298
Phone: (804) 827-2157

https://research.vcu.edu/human-research/hrppirb/research-participants/

Do not sign this consent form unless you have had a chance to ask questions and have received satisfactory answers to all of your questions.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I have been provided with an opportunity to read this consent script carefully. All of the questions that I wish to raise concerning this study have been answered. By typing my name in the box below and continuing the study, I have not waived any of the legal rights or benefits to which I otherwise would be entitled. Typing my name in the box indicates that I freely consent to participate in this research study. I will receive a copy of the consent form for my records.

Typing your name below indicates that you are freely consenting to participate in this study.