

# TSBVI Coffee Hour – Symbols & Meaning Workshop (Accessible Version)

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## Symbols & Meaning (SAM)

Who is it for? How is it used?

### Sensing & Learning

- 0-2 cognitive level (sensorimotor stage)
- Learning to attend
- Learning to explore
- Learning ABOUT objects
- Highly structured and accommodated routines
- Builds coherence, trust, engagement, intention

### Symbols & Meaning

- 2+ Cognitive Level (Preoperational Stage)
- Expanding symbol use and understanding
- Emerging symbol use
- Building conceptual schemas
- Expanding meaning of words, objects, and other symbols
- Games-based instruction

### Both

- Collaborative
- Data-driven
- Motivating
- Respectful
- Intentional

## SAM: Who Is It For?

- Are they attending to objects?
- Are they exploring objects?
- Are they using objects for their intended purpose?
- Are they showing understanding of symbols (some words or calendar symbols)?
- Do you need to help build more robust concepts and connections between symbols & their meaning?

## SAM: How Is It Used?

1. Guidebook

2. Assessment Tools

### 3. Games & Game Materials

#### **Guidebook Overview**

##### **Concept Development**

- People / Objects / Actions / Places
- What is it?
- What does it do?
- How does it relate to other things?

##### **Constructing Schemas**

- Sensory Information
- Label
- Create patterns for organizing concepts

##### **Sensory Bridging**

We can help build concepts by bridging the gap in near & distance sensory information.

#### **Assessment Tools Overview**

Example: Ms. Scott – Feel hand, Hear voice

Balloon (empty & filled), sound of it being tied and patted

Tools mentioned: SARA-CW, SARA Academic Vocab, JOEY

#### **Games Overview**

Focus on: Comfort & Safety, Confidence, Success, Pleasure

##### **SAM Games Philosophy**

- Maximize Active Learning
- Appropriate at any age
- Individually Accommodated

Examples:

SLAP – <https://tech.aph.org/samvid/slap.html>

Whoopee Clothes – [https://tech.aph.org/samvid/whoopee\\_clothes.html](https://tech.aph.org/samvid/whoopee_clothes.html)

#### **Wait... Is This My Job as a TVI?**

- Compensatory Access
- Sensory Efficiency
- Assistive Technology

**Thank You!**  
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