



Saturday, August 3, 2019

Breakout Session C14 • 2:45-3:45 pm • Grand Ballroom C

## From Interaction to Emerging Language: The Deafblind Communicator

Chris Montgomery, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired,  
DeafBlind Outreach Department

### Presenter Information

Chris Montgomery is a DeafBlind Education Specialist, for the Texas DeafBlind Project, at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in Austin. He has extensive experience working directly with children with sensory loss and their families. He worked as a classroom teacher of students with multiple impairments, visual impairments, and deafblindness before his experiences as a DeafBlind consultant. He lives in Austin, TX with his wife Kodie, and his cat Maxx, and plays guitar in his spare moments.

### Presentation Abstract

Have you ever considered how a person with DeafBlindness establishes the concepts that you and I (as sighted hearing people) learn incidentally, through our distance senses ... from observation? In this discussion, we will investigate how to initiate conversation and develop meaningful shared experiences. Exploring the importance of human connectedness through the lens of co-presence, mindfulness, and moments of joy; strategies for incorporating these ideas into our daily life will be examined.

### Learning Objectives

- We will discuss the importance of “significant emotional moments,” and how these relate to a person’s sense of self, and sense of place.
- Explore how to gain a greater understanding of the tactile learner’s perspective – typical vs. sensorially impaired learners.
- Language vs. Communication – Explore ways to gain an understanding of your child’s communication vs. the Adult’s formal language, and what this may mean from the DeafBlind perspective/concept of the world.