

# workshops



PECS and the Pyramid Approach

## About PECS

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is an approach that teaches early communication skills using pictures rather than words or signing.

The methods are significantly different from more traditional picture-pointing systems. With PECS, students are taught to exchange pictures for something they want. If they want a drink, for instance, they will give a picture of a drink to an adult who immediately responds with the requested item. From the outset this 'exchange' format develops skills critical to communication such as social approach, interacting with another person and spontaneity versus prompt-dependency.

The programme is divided into 6 phases ranging from teaching the student to request items using single pictures in phase 1 to constructing increasingly complex sentences and commenting on the environment in phase 6.



# PECS and The Pyramid Approach Training

## The advantages of PECS:

- Clear programme to follow
- Overcomes problems found with signing and other picture-based augmentative communication systems
- Can be used in conjunction with other approaches, eg TEACCH, Portage, ABA
- Does not require expensive equipment or lengthy pre-requisite training for the student
- Encourages the child to initiate communication in a social context from the outset

## Presenters:

All workshops are presented by qualified PECS Consultants working for Pyramid Educational Consultants UK.

## Workshops are of particular interest to:

- Senior managers
- Teachers and teaching assistants
- Speech and language therapists
- Parents
- Educational and clinical psychologists
- ABA therapists
- Portage staff
- Paediatricians and other medical professionals
- Physiotherapists and OTs
- Care staff
- Research and university staff

## PECS two-day workshops:

This workshop is the basic accredited training in PECS. It is the recommended training for all people interested in the programme and all who wish to teach PECS to children or adults with communication difficulties. We advise that parents as well as professionals are trained in PECS if students are to effectively generalise their use of PECS into home, school and community settings.

In addition to the theoretical background and the review of visual strategies useful for communication, delegates will learn how to implement the six phases of PECS, with presenters demonstrating key strategies, showing lots of video examples and allowing opportunity for group practice. Completion of this workshop should enable you to begin constructively using PECS with your student.

Training includes:

- Theoretical background
- Details of the six phases of PECS
- Demonstrations, video illustrations and opportunities to practice
- Review of other visual strategies that promote independence

**Please note: Whilst it is possible to purchase PECS resources independently, we strongly recommend a 2-day workshop if you want to develop PECS effectively. The 2-day workshop is also the basic requirement for further training in PECS, including the certification process.**

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**Please note** workshops start at 9 am and finish at 4:30 pm. Please make sure you arrive approx. 30 minutes beforehand. The PECS Manual and handout for the two-day courses will be provided on registration. A signed PECS certificate will be issued on completion of the workshop.

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## FEES

### 2 day workshops

professional  
parent

£229.79 + (£40.21 VAT) = **£270/€400**  
£119.15 + (£20.85 VAT) = **£140/€205**

### 1 day workshops

£119.15 + (£20.85 VAT) = **£140/€205**  
£59.58 + (£10.42 VAT) = **£70/€95**

Language of Emotions & Pyramid UK's 10 Anniversary Celebration

£60 + (£10.50 VAT) = **£70.50/€100**

5% discount available for bookings on the same workshop for 5-9 delegates.

10% discount available for bookings on the same workshop of 10 or more delegates.

Part attendance of two-day workshops is not possible as contents are integrated over the two days.

We regret that cancellations made less than two weeks in advance of the workshop cannot be refunded.

Changes in presenters and venues may occur on rare occasions. Fee includes finger buffet lunch and refreshments, a handout and other course materials, as appropriate. Payment can be made in £ sterling or Euros.

**Accommodation** Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements.

**Please note** Attendance at any PECS workshop does not qualify delegates to carry out subsequent PECS training.

**We offer resources, consultations and intensive programmes based on the Pyramid Approach, including the Picture Exchange Communication System. We have also developed a comprehensive in-house training programme aimed at meeting the needs of the whole school or organisation. We would be happy to supply you with more information. Please write, email or visit our web-site [www.pecs.org.uk](http://www.pecs.org.uk)**

# 2008 PECS & Pyramid Approach Workshops

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## PECS Basic 2-day Workshops

date	location	venue
Feb 28 & 29	Nottingham	Best Western Westminster Hotel
Mar 03 & 04	Manchester	Manchester Conference Centre
Mar 10 & 11	Norwich	George Hotel
Mar 13 & 14	Birmingham	Menzies Strathallan Hotel
Apr 17 & 18	Dublin	Royal Dublin Hotel
Apr 28 & 29	Doncaster	Regent Hotel
Apr 28 & 29	Southampton	Novotel Hotel Southampton
May 01 & 02	Cardiff	Holiday Inn Cardiff City Centre
May 08 & 09	London	Resource Centre London
May 12 & 13	Ipswich	Novotel Ipswich
May 12 & 13	Scarborough	Palm Court Hotel
May 19 & 20	Londonderry	City Hotel
Jun 05 & 06	Stoke on Trent	Britannia North Stafford Hotel
Jun 09 & 10	Milton Keynes	Express by Holiday Inn Milton Keynes
Jun 16 & 17	Kendal	Riverside Hotel
Jun 16 & 17	Peterborough	Bull Hotel
June 23 & 24	Cheltenham	Thistle Cheltenham
June 26 & 27	Brighton	Old Ship Hotel
June 30 & 01 Jul	Wolverhampton	Quality Hotel Wolverhampton
July 10 & 11	Sheffield	Novotel Hotel Sheffield
Aug 28 & 29	London	Resource Centre London
Sep 08 & 09	Edinburgh	Novotel Edinburgh Centre
Sep 11 & 12	Portlaoise, Ireland	Killeshin Hotel
Sep 18 & 19	Swindon	Holiday Inn Express Swindon City Centre
Sep 25 & 26	Galway, Ireland	Marriott Courtyard Galway Hotel
Sep 29 & 30	Canterbury	University of Kent
Sep 29 & 30	Plymouth	Holiday Inn Plymouth
Oct 02 & 03	York	Holiday Inn York
Oct 06 & 07	Southampton	Novotel Hotel Southampton
Oct 09 & 10	Cambridge	New Hall, University of Cambridge
Oct 09 & 10	St Albans	Quality Hotel St Albans
Oct 13 & 14	Manchester	Lancashire County Cricket Club
Oct 16 & 17	Darlington	St George Hotel
Oct 20 & 21	Birmingham	Menzies Strathallan Hotel
Nov 13 & 14	Northampton	Best Western Lime Trees Hotel
Nov 17 & 18	Glasgow	Premier Inn Glasgow City Centre South
Nov 20 & 21	Aberdeen	Holiday Inn Express Aberdeen City Centre
Nov 20 & 21	Leeds	Parkinson Building, University of Leeds
Nov 24 & 25	London	Resource Centre London
Nov 27 & 28	Liverpool	Foresight Centre, University of Liverpool
Dec 01 & 02	Dublin	Holiday Inn Dublin City Centre

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## Teaching Communication Skills for Independence

(formerly 'Teaching 9 Critical Communication Skills')

date	location	venue
<b>Apr 01</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Resource Centre London</b>
<b>Oct 15</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>Lancashire County Cricket Club</b>

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## Supporting Older Students & Adults using PECS & The Pyramid Approach

date	location	venue
<b>Apr 02</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Resource Centre London</b>

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## PECS Advanced Training – PECS Review, Practice & Problem Solving

(formerly 'PECS Review, Practice & Problem Solving')

date	location	venue
<b>May 09</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>Manchester Conference Centre</b>
<b>Nov 19</b>	<b>Glasgow</b>	<b>Premier Inn Glasgow City Centre South</b>
<b>Nov 25</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Resource Centre London</b>

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## PECS Advanced Training – Incorporating PECS Across the Day

(formerly 'Incorporating PECS Across the Day')

date	location	venue
<b>Apr 16</b>	<b>Dublin</b>	<b>Royal Dublin Hotel</b>
<b>Jun 18</b>	<b>Peterborough</b>	<b>Bull Hotel</b>

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## A Teacher's Guide to Organising & Managing the Classroom

(formerly 'Setting Up An Effective Classroom')

date	location	venue
<b>Apr 30</b>	<b>Southampton</b>	<b>Novotel Hotel Southampton</b>

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## Guide to Managing Challenging Behaviours

(formerly 'Managing Behaviour')

date	location	venue
<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>Menzies Strathallan Hotel</b>

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## Language of Emotions & Celebration of Pyramid UK's 10th Anniversary

date	location	venue
<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Resource Centre London</b>
<b>Sept 24</b>	<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>Novotel Edinburgh Centre</b>



## **Supporting Older Students and Adults using PECS and the Pyramid Approach**

Presented by Dr Anthony Castrogiovanni, a U.S. Pyramid Consultant, this workshop will provide an exciting opportunity to discuss an often neglected area – effective programming, including PECS, for older students and adults with complex needs. We hope to include short presentations from people working in the field. Please contact [jbriere@pecs.org.uk](mailto:jbriere@pecs.org.uk) should you want to make a short contribution to this workshop.

## **PECS Advanced Training – Incorporating PECS Across the Day**

Appropriate if you have attended the two-day workshop and are looking at ways of extending PECS across the day. This workshop will describe strategies for incorporating PECS across an entire day within functional contexts, with expectations for the student to use language beyond single picture requests. ‘Advanced’ PECS lessons that teach a variety of linguistic concepts and syntactical structures will be described. Selection of appropriate targets, creation of functional lessons, and strategies for incorporating PECS within all activities will be discussed.

## **Teaching Communication Skills for Independence**

(formerly 9 Critical Communication Skills)

Of value to professionals and parents interested in developing important communication skills that are essential for ALL students, regardless of age, level of learning difficulty, home/school/community setting, current communication modality (e.g. speech, PECS, signing)

Topics covered will include following visual directions & timetables, learning to wait, to transition between activities, to ask for help or for a break and answering ‘yes’ and ‘no’.

## **A Teacher’s Guide to Organising & Managing the Classroom**

(formerly Setting up an Effective Classroom)

Pyramid consultants have frequently been asked advice on how to develop effective learning environments, which emphasise functional communication, as well as helping students to access the curriculum.

The focus will be on practical ideas to create meaningful learning activities, motivate students, classroom organisation and developing communication, especially through using PECS to access the National Curriculum. Delegates will participate in practical activities designed to be useful in planning effective lessons.

The workshop is relevant for those working with both primary and secondary aged students with communication difficulties.

## **Guide to Managing Challenging Behaviours**

(formerly Managing Behaviour)

This workshop outlines a powerful and effective model for dealing with difficult behaviours, including the most challenging self-injurious behaviours. The Pyramid Approach to Education is based on broad-spectrum behaviour analysis. The workshop will cover the variables that need to be put in place before you have any chance of being successful with behaviour intervention strategies, followed by the key elements in successful behaviour management interventions.

## **PECS Intensive Programme**

Ideal for families seeking intensive communication programming using the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). Baseline assessment is followed by 5 days intensive work either in our in-house clinic in Brighton or in a home environment. This programme is available in all of the school holidays in 2007/2008. Further details and applications etc can be obtained by contacting the office as below.

## **PECS Advanced Training – PECS Review, Practice & Problem Solving**

Appropriate if you have attended the 2-day workshop and are already using PECS.

This workshop focuses on our most recent suggestions for effectively implementing PECS at all the phases.

Participants will have opportunity to practice their PECS skills under the guidance of a Pyramid Consultant, troubleshoot any implementation problems they may be having and share their successful and difficult cases.

Videotapes of participants implementing PECS can be reviewed at the training session (please contact us in advance).

## **Language of Emotions & Celebration of Pyramid UK’s 10 Anniversary**

Many children, especially those with autism, have difficulty in acquiring language related to expressing emotions and identifying emotions in other people. This talk, delivered for the first time in the UK by PECS co-founders Andrew Bondy & Lori Frost, will present an analysis based upon B.F. Skinner’s work and demonstrate how effective lessons can be developed. Come celebrate 10 years of PECS in the UK by attending this exceptional talk and also hear guest presenters speak on their experiences with PECS.

Special price : £70.50/€100

[www.pecs.org.uk](http://www.pecs.org.uk)

# About Pyramid

## Pyramid Educational Consultants

First established in the US by Andy Bondy, PhD and Lori Frost, MS,CCC/SLP to provide training and support for parents and professionals using PECS and the Pyramid Approach. A UK base for Pyramid Educational Consultants was opened in Brighton in 1998 to support developments in the UK, Europe and internationally.

Our aim is to provide high quality consultation and support to parents, carers and professionals involved with children and adults with communication difficulties. In addition to the workshops, Pyramid consultants will make home and school visits to give direct support to parents and staff in setting up a new programme or developing and extending existing programmes. (See our consultancy leaflet for further information on services.)

The team of Pyramid consultants have many years' experience of working with students with a wide range of special educational needs including autism and significant communication difficulties. All are accredited PECS implementers or supervisors.

Pyramid has a commitment to provide a percentage of services for free or at a reduced rate; therefore discounts are available on application for parents or for block bookings.

## The Pyramid Approach to Education (Bondy and Sulzer Azaroff, 2002)

An approach for developing effective educational environments for children and adults with communication and learning difficulties. This approach combines a behavioural perspective with functional communication to develop effective teaching and learning in school, home and community settings.

**Stay in touch**

**Book your place on the workshop,  
order resources and stay up to date online**

**[www.pecs.org.uk](http://www.pecs.org.uk)**



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