



A coach can foster conditions in which deep reflection and learning can take place, where a teacher can take risks to change her practice, where powerful conversations can take place and where growth is recognized and celebrated. Finally, a coach holds a space where healing can take place and where resilient, joyful communities can be built.

Elena Aguilar *The Art of Coaching: Effective Strategies for School Transformation* 2016

Coaching for AT Assessors/Specialists

ATs go through certificate programs that are intended as foundational training. Yet once assessing students in the District or SELPA they are not likely to have a highly experienced person to provide coaching. They expect themselves to handle the most litigious cases alone. When I meet with ATs they often share the feeling of isolation and wondering if they are doing all they can. Often they are developing AT programs as well. Coaching from a highly experienced AT Specialist will not only provide *just in time support*, but could also reduce turnover. In some cases when an IEE is needed or particularly difficult assessment comes up it is an ideal way to build capacity. Unfortunately, until now, it was difficult to find coaching for such unique professionals.

How does the coaching program work?

Create one contract with *Susan Simmons & Associate, LLC* and have access to any or all coaches. (Minimum 10 hours billed as used.) Requesting AT Specialist will fill in a short form to clarify their need, prior to each coaching session. Within 24-48 hours an appointment will be arranged with a coach to meet that need. A specific coach can also be requested. Most coaching is by phone or skype. Since the consult is with the AT student permission is not needed (all identifying information is taken out).

Coaching is provided virtually, *faces time, skype*, or other meeting software. Sessions are recorded to limit distractions of note taking and notes are sent to the provider to help support their needs.

Coaches

Our coaches are highly experienced Assistive Technology Specialists with greatly varied backgrounds and experience. Coaching is provided “just in time” as needed. Help editing reports, talking through assessing a difficult or “sticky” student or advice on legally difficult cases. Participating coaches are carefully selected by Susan Simmons.

Areas of Experience and Expertise

Visual Impairment
Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Orthopedic Impairment
Dyslexia, SLD, ADHD, Autism
Augmentative Communication
Cognitive Delays