



# SEL Coaching for Early Childhood Educators with Swivl

## HELPING TO MAKE CHILDCARE MORE INCLUSIVE

In 2012, The ASaP Program (Access, Support and Participation) was created in response to a research study conducted in 2011 by Dr. Lesley Wiart for the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research. In the study, titled The State of Inclusive Childcare in Alberta, Dr. Wiart and her colleagues identified several significant challenges facing licensed childcare centres. This included having limited access to resources to support the inclusion of all children.

Using the evidence-based Pyramid Model, developed by the Centre on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning, ASaP provides one-on-one coaching to early childhood educators in order to:

- Build educators' skills, knowledge, and confidence in Pyramid Model practices
- Ensure the use of inclusive practices and meaningful participation of ALL children
- Promote children's healthy social and emotional development
- Support the wellbeing of early childhood educators, children, and families

Having conversations with educators in real-time is an integral part of what ASaP does. Being able to point out specific classroom strategies as they're happening helps educators shift from focusing on what they already know to focusing on developing more inclusive strategies.



### The ASaP Program at a Glance

#### LOCATION

Alberta, Canada

#### # OF COACHES

31

#### GRADE LEVEL

Ages 0 to 6

#### AREA OF FOCUS

SEL Coaching for Early Childhood Educators

#### SWIVL PRODUCTS

Teams + Robot

#### YEAR THEY STARTED USING SWIVL PRODUCTS

2019



# Why They Chose Swivl

In 2015, ASaP expanded its work from the Edmonton area to other regions of the province which meant working in more rural area.

“For some of our coaches who would be working in rural areas, we wanted to reduce drive time and provide a more efficient alternative to face-to-face coaching,” said Laura Blakley, ASaP Regional Supervisor.

After considering several coaching tools, ASaP decided Swivl Teams + Robot met their needs best.

“There were many reasons why we decided to use Swivl Teams + Robot over other options. It’s a hands-free tool, which is especially important for working with young children. We love how the Robot tracks the educator around the classroom, which helps us see educators in their practice and hone in on their goals. Time-Stamped Comments help us have deeper and more meaningful dialogues with educators too,” said Lacy Bateman, ASaP Resource Lead.



The most helpful feature Swivl provides is the ability to capture clear audio from the educator.

-Laura Blakley



**Videos  
Uploaded**  
280



**Comments  
Created**  
863



**Videos  
Shared**  
209



**Uploaded  
Rubrics**  
3

## MORE THAN A TOOL FOR FEEDBACK

Over time, the way ASaP used Swivl Teams + Robot expanded beyond educators submitting videos to their coaches for feedback.

- ① Maria Makowiecki, an ASaP coach to an early learning and care centre, uses Teams to create an easier way for her and her colleagues to set clear and actionable goals.
  - ② Swivl Teams+Robot helped the coaching become reciprocal. Coaches are able to easily record themselves modeling a classroom strategy to send directly to an educator they're working with.
  - ③ ASaP coaches are recording themselves giving feedback to educators. This helps coaches self-reflect on their coaching practice and provides them with the opportunity to receive feedback and coaching from their supervisors.
- ASaP began using Teams by Swivl as a relationship building tool, incorporating video into many aspects of their professional learning and remote coaching throughout a typical school year. Video-based activities include ice-breakers among coaches in professional learning sessions, modeling instructional strategies, and engaging in reflective feedback via text-based annotation. Throughout the pandemic, they also focused on the mental wellbeing of their program participants through virtual check-ins.



“Using the Teams app has also allowed us to connect on the educators’ goals as well as the centre’s program-wide leadership goals. We also refer to the video to revise or create new goals together.”

–Maria Makowiecki

## ONBOARDING EDUCATORS

ASaP has found success helping educators who are new to video coaching become more at ease while recording themselves with these approaches:

- Suggesting that the coach send a personalized video introduction to the educator they’re coaching. Simply saying, “I’m the person you’re sending videos to,” helps make the practice less intimidating.
- Have the educators record a video introduction of themselves to send to the coach. This helps them to learn how to operate the tools in a low-pressure setting.
- Giving educators a simple video assignment. For example, having the educators introduce you to their classroom by walking around the room and talking about each area.
- Encouraging the educators to use the Robot in fun ways. It can be as simple as using the tools to record a group of the children dancing, or performing a skit. This helps to build a positive association with the tools.

## ONBOARDING COACHES

To help ASaP coaches become comfortable using Swivl Teams + Robot, they created an onboarding process by thinking about the preliminary skills coaches would need in order to use the tools. From how to operate the Robot to being more at ease while being recorded, the ASaP team shared the following process:

- Created How-To videos for their team about how to use Swivl Teams + Robot to complete their work.
- Created tip sheets to supplement the How-To videos. Coaches could print off the tip sheets and take them with them on site visits.
- Scheduled monthly meetings where team leaders could model for the coaches best practices and how to use the tools.
- Held regular trainings where they partnered people together to work collaboratively to learn the new tools and achieve internal goals.

**Swivl Teams + Robot have become instrumental tools for ASaP. They have created a way to connect with educators from all over Alberta. And while the distance between the educators and coaches at times might be vast, these tools have made it feel like they’re next door to each other.**

**Over 50k schools use Swivl’s video and audio tools to build strong, trusting relationships. Visit [swivl.com](https://swivl.com) to learn more today!**