

## About the Authors

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**Debra Reichert Hoge, Ed.D., CCC-SLP**, is a professor in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in early intervention, child language development and disorders, low incidence populations, early childhood special education, and augmentative and alternative communication. Prior to becoming a faculty member at Southern Illinois, Debra taught in the public schools and at a center for autism. Debra has presented numerous workshops throughout the country on early intervention; assessment and intervention with infants, toddlers, and their families; syndromes; and early childhood special education issues. She was chosen as an author and presenter on two national in-service grants awarded to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA): ASHA's Building Blocks and ASHA's Interdisciplinary Preschool Project.

Debra is a native and a lifelong resident of St. Louis, Missouri and lives there with her husband, James, and daughter, Jillian Jean. *The Source for Augmentative and Alternative Communication* is Debra's third publication with LinguiSystems. She also co-authored *The Source for Syndromes* and *The Source for Syndromes 2*.



**Cheryl A. Newsome, M.S., CCC-SLP**, is Supervisor of Speech-Language Therapy Services for the Belleville Area Special Services Cooperative in Belleville, Illinois. In this capacity she provides technical support to speech-language pathologists (SLPs) in 23 school districts and serves as the SLP on the Augmentative Communication Evaluation and Support Team for the Cooperative. Cheryl's primary interest in the field of speech-language pathology involves children with autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delays, and other disorders that create difficulties with oral speech production. Before moving to Illinois, Cheryl was an SLP in Hawaii and Florida.

Cheryl has presented many workshops, primarily in the state of Illinois, for parents and professionals targeting functional communication strategies and early literacy skills. She has worked with the Illinois State Board of Education on task forces for establishing certification guidelines for school SLPs. Cheryl has also served on the Illinois Speech Hearing Association Representative Council from her area group in Southwestern Illinois (SWISHA). This is her first publication with LinguiSystems.

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