

ALL ABOUT

AAC



From this presentation, you will learn:

- What AAC is
- Who uses it
- The different types
- Why it's important

**And best practices for teaching AAC
and supporting those who use it!**

AAC = augmentative
and alternative
comunication



AUGMENTATIVE



supplements
verbal speech

ALTERNATIVE



instead of
verbal speech

**Check out the video below
to learn more about AAC!**

<http://bit.ly/whatisAAC>



DIFFERENT TYPES OF AAC

No Tech: Doesn't require extra equipment

Ex: Pointing, gestures, facial expressions, sign language

Low Tech: Doesn't require a battery

Ex: Picture symbol books, writing, alphabet boards

High Tech: Systems that use technology

Ex: iPads, dedicated systems

WHO USES IT?

**Anyone who cannot meet
their daily needs with spoken
language alone would likely
benefit from AAC.**

**This includes individuals who
are hard to understand!**



Communication
is a
fundamental
human right.

AAC BEST PRACTICES

1) Access

Make sure the system is accessible at all times.

2) Modeling

Consistently model using the system.

3) Core Vocabulary

Focus on core vocabulary and keywords.

4) Communication Opportunities

Plan opportunities for communication throughout the day.



1

access

**Make sure the system is out
at all times.**

**It is their voice and
cannot be taken away.**

**If you're ever tempted to take an AAC system
away, ask yourself:**

“What would I do if this child were verbal?”



2

modeling



**“Modeling” using AAC
means that you use the
communication system
while you talk to show
how it can be used.**

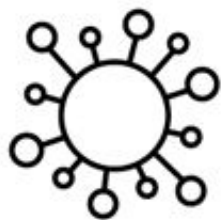
**Check out the video below
to learn more about the
importance of modeling!**

<http://bit.ly/modelingAAC>



By 18 months, babies have heard 4,380 hours of spoken language and we don't expect them to be fluent speakers yet.

If AAC learners only see symbols modeled twice weekly for 20-30 minutes, it will take them 84 years for them to have the same exposure to aided language as an 18 month old has to spoken language. -Jane Korsten



3

core
vocabulary



**Core vocabulary is a
small set of words
that make up about
80% of what we say
day to day.**

Some of the top words used
by most people include:

I out off yes help
here no a want
the is it go
more you my
what on in that

Use this website to try to describe
a cheetah and how a volcano
works using only the 1,000 most
used words in English.

<http://splasho.com/upgoer5/>

REFLECT: How hard was this to do?

**For cheetah, did you
say something like...**



**a big cat that runs
fast and has spots?**







4

communication
opportunities

There are **only 4 reasons** why people communicate!

**1. Express
wants/needs**

**3. Build
relationships**

**2. Get & share
information**

**4. Engage in
social etiquette**

We need opportunities to practice each of these every day!



**Research has shown that
AAC users need at least
200 communication
opportunities EVERY DAY
in order to learn to use
their system well.**



**Having a
communication device
doesn't make you an
effective communicator
any more than having a
piano makes you a
musician.** -Beukelman, 1991

In summary...

- Make sure the AAC system is available at all times.
- Model language on the system.
- Focus on core vocabulary words (less nouns!!).
- Set up as many meaningful communication opportunities as possible.



Thanks for supporting our AAC users!

**If you ever have questions
or want more information
or suggestions related to
AAC, please contact me!**