



Augmentative Alternative Communication: *When are AAC systems Helpful and Appropriate?*

2/13/25

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None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.



Learning Objectives

- Participants will identify 4 different types of AAC, both low and high tech, appropriate for improving communication
- Participants will identify 3 characteristics that make AAC appropriate for a person or situation
- Participants will identify 2 communicative situations where AAC would be appropriate

Importance of AAC *for Persons with Autism*

- 1:36 children will be diagnosed with autism in the US
- 50% of those will be unable to communicate verbally
- AAC provides auditory & visual feedback

<https://www.aacandautism.com/>

Setting your AAC Foundation

Augmentative / Alternative Communication

- Includes ALL forms of communication (outside of speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants and ideas
- We ALL USE AAC
- ANYONE can use – AT ANY STAGE/TIME/ABILITIES
- Includes Low and High Tech – Aided and Unaided

www.asha.org/public/speechdisorders/AAC



Communication Forms

*Communication is the active process of exchanging information and ideas.
Communication involves both understanding and expression.*

Unaided Communication

- Nonverbal means of communication
- Needs adequate motor control
- Needs a communication partner to interpret

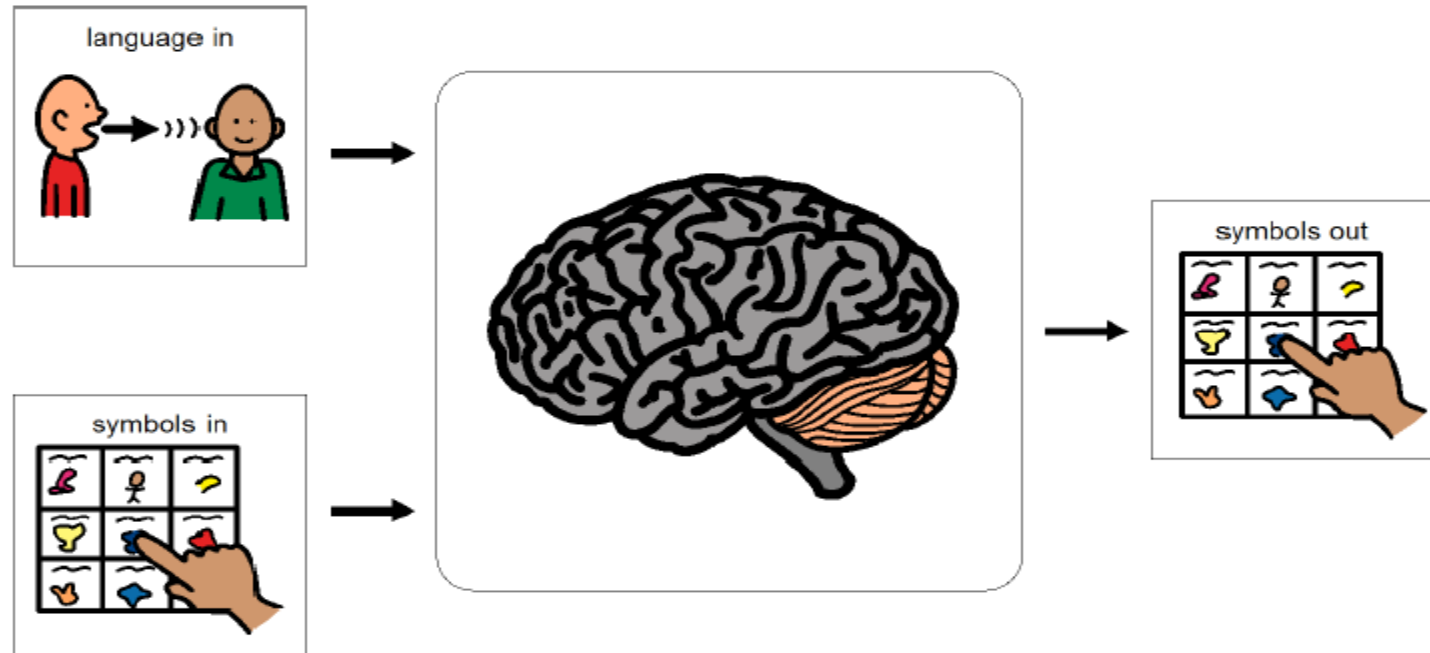
Aided Communication

- Requires external support
- Can have voice output
- More easily understood by a larger variety of partners

www.asha.org/njc/aac/#aided.com

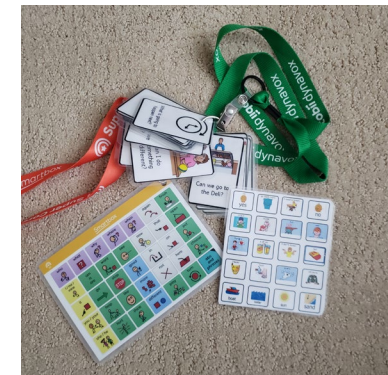
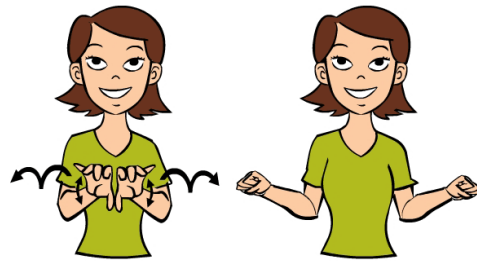


Why Use Symbols for Communication



Low Tech AAC Systems

- Sign Language
- PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System)
- PODD (Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display)
- Communication Symbols – Boardmaker, Lesson Pix, Symbol Stix



PECS:

Picture Exchange Communication System

- Developed in the US in 1985 by Andy Bondy, PhD and Lori Frost, MS, CCC-SLP
- Developed initially for children with autism
- Combines principals of ABA and AAC
- Based on B.F. Skinner's book "Verbal Behavior"
- Approach on training use of simple icons
- Emphasizes developing requesting



PODD:

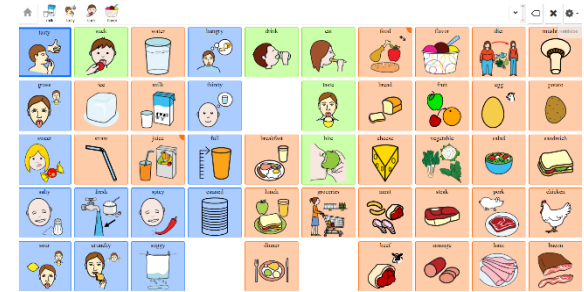
Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display

- Created by Gayle Porter, SLP with the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre in Victoria, Australia
- Developed over the past 15 years
- Variety of Types of PODDs
- Can be considered for anyone who needs a tool for
 - Supporting communication with others
 - Learning language
 - Assistance in expressive language
 - Can be personalized
 - Useful for any age



High Tech AAC Systems

- PRC- Saltillo (LAMP, Unity/Empower/TouchChat/NovaChat)
- Tobii Dynavox (TD Snap)
- Forbes AAC (iPad Apps)
- Ablenet QuickTalker Freestyle (iPad Apps)
- Logan ProxTalker
- Talk2Me Technologies (Grid 3, Apps)
- AssistiveWare (Proloquo2Go, Proloquo4Text)

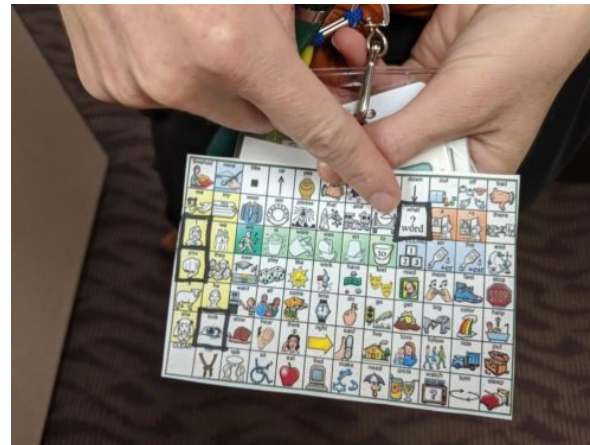


Environmental Factors

- Where is the AAC system (low or high tech)?
 - 1-2 second rule
 - Always open/on
 - Always available
- Do my communication partners support and know how to use the AAC system?
- How many opportunities are available to communicate using their AAC system? (1992, Goosen, Craine and Elder)
 - 200 opportunities a day!

Importance of AAC

- Visual system that doesn't disappear
- Assists with learning and using language
- Provides symbolic language
- Communication reduces mal-adaptive behaviors



[Integrating AAC Into the Classroom | The ASHA Leader Archive](#)

Key Points

- AAC is multi-modal in nature
- AAC is appropriate for a wide range of communicators
- AAC is used by all of us, often daily
- AAC must be available in ALL environments ALL of the time
- Having a communication device doesn't make you an effective communicator any more than having a piano makes you a musician (Beukelman, 1991)

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 for communication twice weekly for 20-30 minutes,
it will take **84 years**
for them to have the same exposure to aided language
as an 18-month-old has to spoken language.

Resources

- [The Center for AAC & Autism](#)
- [PrAACtical AAC](#)
- [Idaho Training Clearinghouse](#)
- Project Core (<https://www.project-core.com>)
- [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\) - AAC](#)
- Vendor websites – PRC-Salttillo, Tobii Dynavox, Assistiveware, Avaz, CoughDrop