

Autism Education Series: Augmentative and/or Alternative Communication (AAC)

Did you know?

- Communication is a basic human right.
- Everyone can learn how to communicate.
- Communication supports learning, improves confidence and well-being, and reduces frustration!

What is AAC?

- AAC stands for Augmentative and/or Alternative Communication.
- AAC is any form of communication other than spoken language.



Who uses AAC?

- Everyone!
- Children and adults.
- Those with little or no spoken language.
- Those who have trouble being understood.

Gestures 	Body Language
Facial Expressions 	Writing/Typing
Pictures 	Signs

Why use AAC?

- To comment and express opinions: “I see a bear!”
- To share feelings: “My tummy hurts.”
- To make choices: “I want the red ball.”
- To be part of the community: “One scoop of vanilla.”
- To say “no”, refuse, or protest: “Don’t touch my work.”

“I want the red ball.”



When considering AAC:

- It’s important to make choices that are a good fit for your family.
- You know your child best. Every journey with AAC is unique.
- Your team can help you! Your team will:
 - explore different types of AAC.
 - navigate funding.
 - work with you on how to teach your child.

Considering AAC?

- You can start AAC anytime!
- Your child doesn’t need to have a specific set of skills to begin using AAC.
- AAC can be personalized.
- There are different ways to teach AAC.