To be a good Communication Partner

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The whole point of communicating is connecting
Augmentative and Alternative Communications

AAC means all of the ways that someone communicates besides talking. People of all ages can use AAC if they have trouble with speech or language skills.

Augmentative means to add to someone’s speech.

Alternative means to be used instead of speech.

Some people use AAC throughout their life. Others may use AAC only for a short time, like when they have surgery and can’t talk.
Different types of AAC

**No-tech** and **low-tech** options include things like
- gestures and facial expressions,
- writing,
- drawing,
- spelling words by pointing to letters,
- pointing to photos, pictures, or written words.

**High-tech** options include things like
- using an app on an iPad or tablet to communicate
- using a computer with a “voice,” -Communication Device
A person may use different types of AAC because there are many ways that we all communicate. An AAC system means all of the tools of this type that a person uses.
Focus

AAC with a Communication Device

and how to be a good Communication Partner
Presume Competence

at all times
Tablet and Eye Gaze computers
The whole community matters
“Having a communication device doesn’t make you an effective communicator any more than having a piano makes you a musician”

David Beukelman
The device is their voice
Time and support

- time to react
- support when needed
- count to 10 in your mind
- praise everything that’s said
- confirm that you understand
- make it a positive experience using the device for communication
Respect the time it takes

For the user to build sentences and find the right words

100% Attention all the time

I'm gonna get a book at the Library
The software is their language
Model words and sentences

Use the same language
Core words, quickfires and wordlists
5 things to remember

1. In the beginning you will use the Communication device much more than your AAC learner
2. The AAC learner will push lot of buttons that seem random
3. Use the device when you play and use words to describe the game
4. Even though the learner is not using the device he is still learning the language
5. It takes time to be a successful communicator
Before you say …

“He’s not using the device ”

Ask yourself:

Am I a good modeler?

Do I model words and sentences enough?

Am I using the device enough?
Don’t ignore words even if they seem random

- I’m not quiet sure what you mean, will you tell me more?
- It looks like you have a lot to say!
- Can you give me another word to help me understand what you want to tell me?
- You said “go” Where would you like to go?
- That’s interesting word. Do you have something else you want to say about that?
- Hmm are you telling me you want to talk about dinosaurs?
- Wow, I've never seen you use that word before!
- I didn’t know you liked cars. What color is your favorite
- I don’t see a bus right now. Did you see a bus today?

Honor every communication
AAC Tip

Learn the device together
Make mistakes together
Search for words, together
Make it a shared experience
School Project
AAC is NOT a last resort.
We can work on AAC and SPEECH at the same time
Mutual understanding
Topics - mutual understanding
Communication Software - TD Snap
Progress

Learning how to build sentences
Getting to know the wordlists
Learning how to get attention
Learning to go between sections
Learning to have conversation
Learning to express their feelings
Learning to answer questions
Learning to read and write
Pageset for visually impaird
The device
Pageset for Eye Gaze users
Aphasia Pageset - work in progress
Pageset Central - Tobii Dynavox Database
Social Media - Facebook and Instagram
Thank you

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