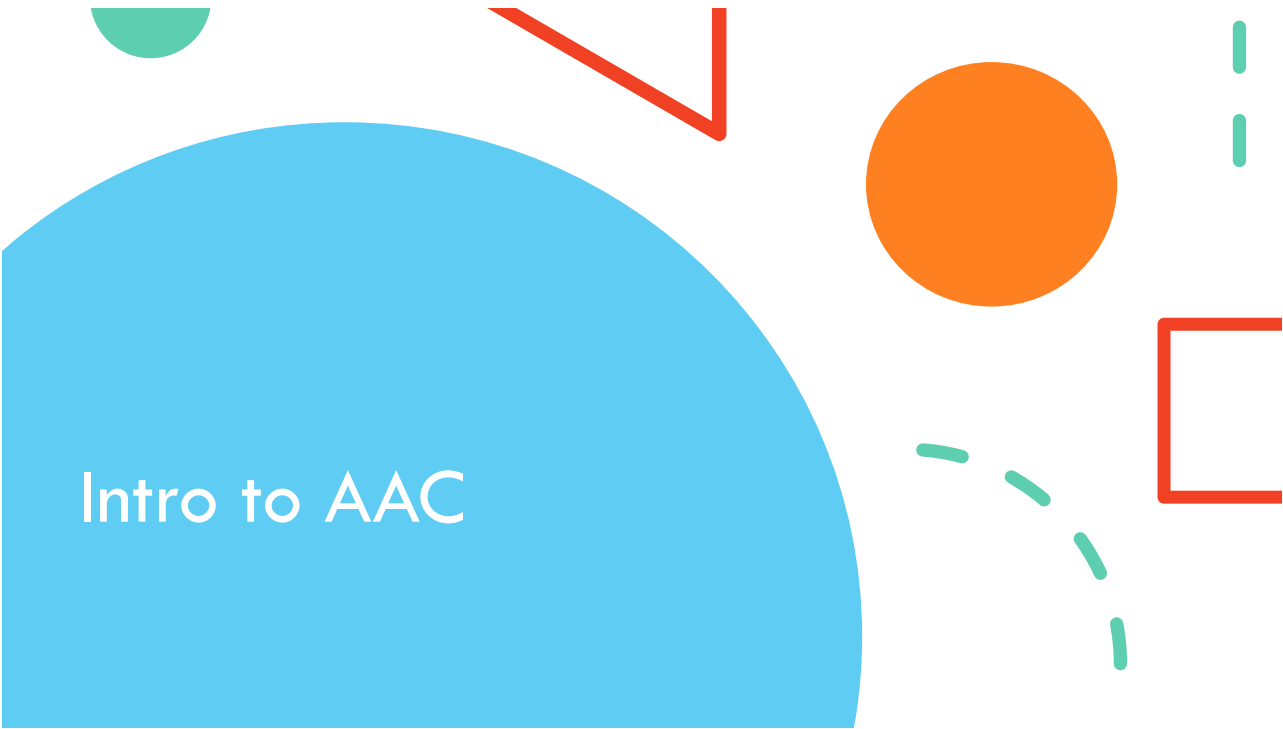


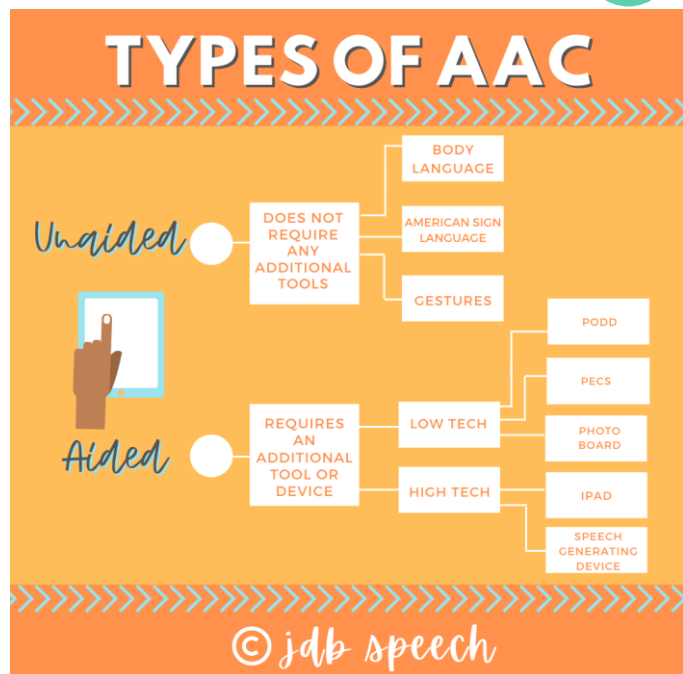
## Advocating and Addressing Communication: The other form of AAC

Jaime Branaman, M.A. CCC-SLP  
Kimberly Mattison, SLPD, CCC-SLP



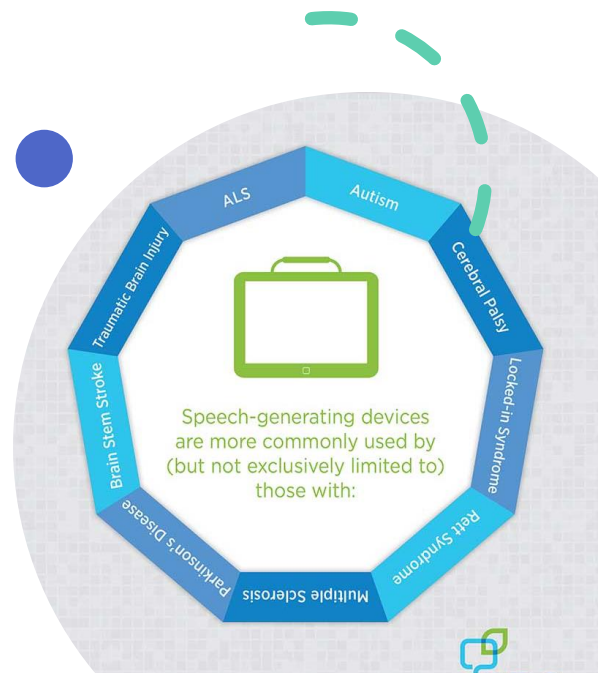
## What is AAC?

- AAC stands for augmentative and alternative communication
- Any form of communication beyond natural speech



## Who uses AAC?

- Anyone can!
- People who don't have access to vocal speech
- People whose vocal speech is hard to understand
- People who find it decreases the stress around communication



## What are the benefits of using AAC?



Supports natural speech development and language learning



Increased independence



Decreased frustration and behaviors



Improved educational and social outcomes




Easily customized and personalized

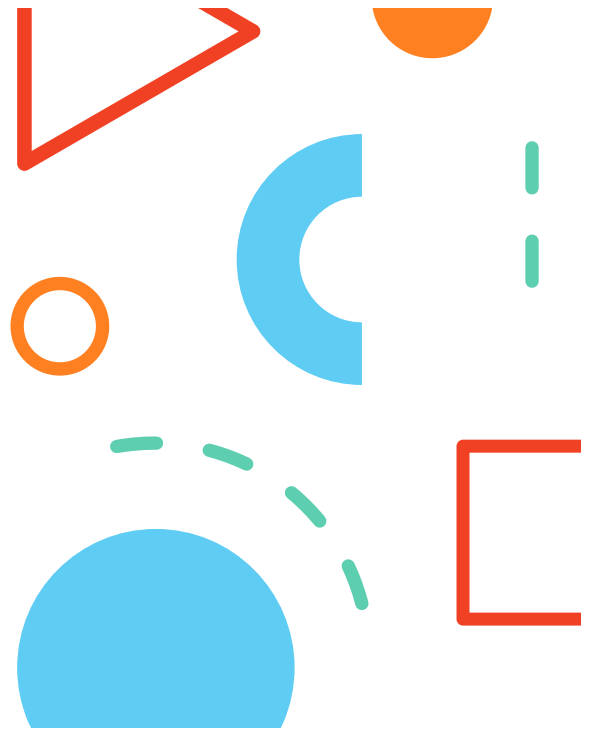


More communication!

Source: Millar et al, 2006 and Ronski, Sevcik 2005

 Talk To Me Technologies

# Statements on AAC



## Myth

AAC slows down or hinders oral speech development.



## Fact

AAC does NOT slow oral speech acquisition, it supports it!



## Myth

You have to have use of your arms, hands and fingers to use AAC.



## Fact

There are many other access options for AAC, including eye-tracking systems.





## Myth

AAC is only for people who do not use any oral speech.



## Fact

AAC is for anyone with challenges in oral speech. AAC can be used in addition to oral speech.



## Myth

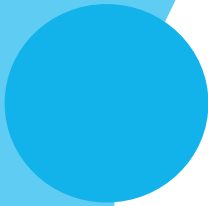
People with cognitive impairments cannot use AAC.



## Fact

People with a variety of intellectual abilities can use AAC.





# Best Practices for AAC



## Communicative Competencies



Linguistic



Operational



Strategic



Social

# Communicative Competencies

## 4 Areas of Communicative Competence

### Linguistic Competence

- expressive and receptive language skills
- syntax, morphology, communicative functions
- symbols that represent language and symbol organization
- literacy

### Operational Competence

- device access skills (direct selection, eye gaze, scanning, etc.)
- operation of system (volume control, on/off, clear, speak message, etc.)

### Social Competence

- skills that relate to interacting with others (taking turns, initiating and maintaining interactions, shifting topics, etc.)
- skills that relate to interactive purposes of communication (express wants and needs, share information, build relationships, participate in social etiquette)

### Strategic Competence

- ability to adjust communication to the current person or situation
- compensatory strategies and communication repair skills

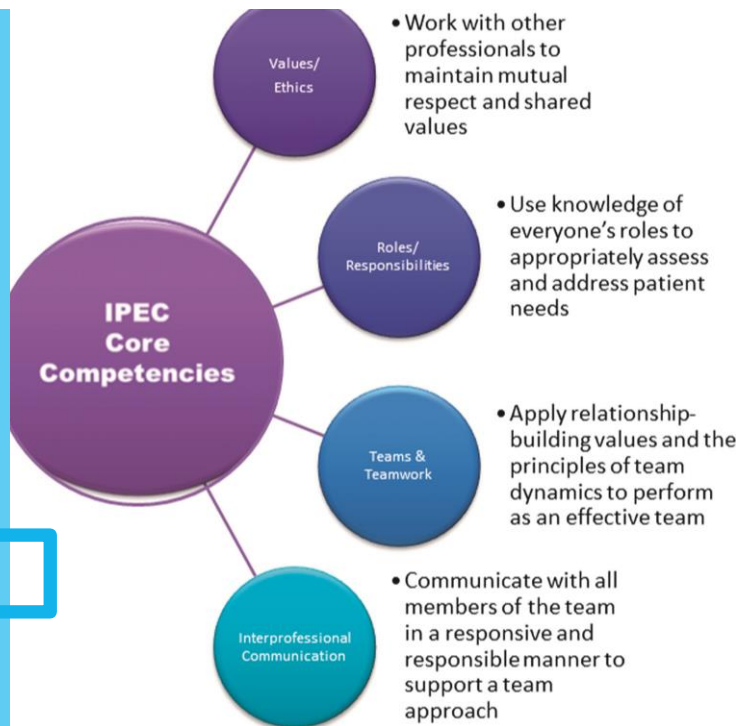


## Interprofessional Collaboration

- WHO: Collaboration among multiple health workers
- ASHA: Priority on interprofessional collaborative practice (IPP)
- Extremely important to use collaboration in the world of AAC between therapists, families, teachers, and all communication partners



# Effective Collaboration



# Communication Partner Training



## **COMMUNICATION PARTNERS**

**Communication partners are all the important people who talk and interact with people who use AAC.**

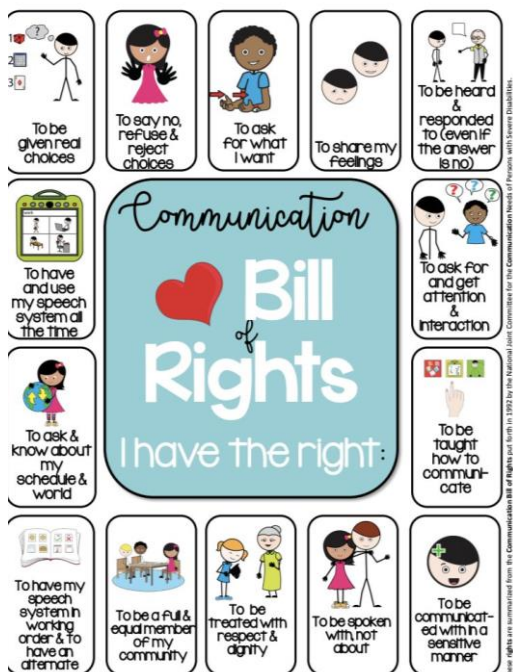
Building good communication partner skills is crucial in all AAC journeys. Communication partners will:

- Provide wait time
- Attribute meaning
- Model
- Use strategies to respond to communication
- Provide prompts or cues

[www.assistiveware.com](http://www.assistiveware.com)







Designed with love by Beautiful Speech Life using Smarty Symbols

## Advocating for AAC users

### How:

- Advocate for device access
- Advocate for presumed competence in communication partners
- Advocate for accommodations for communicative differences
- Advocate for device acceptance
- Advocate for environmental adjustments to facilitate device ease of usage



## References

ASHA, WHO, IPEC, Skinner, Light & McNaughton

Visit: [www.asha.org/Practice/Interprofessional-Education-Practice](http://www.asha.org/Practice/Interprofessional-Education-Practice)

