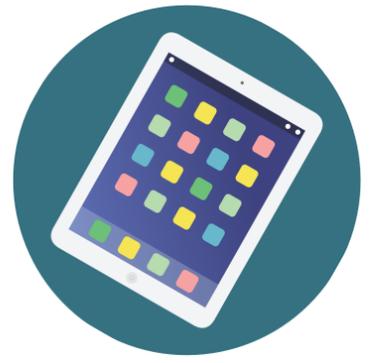# AAC CONNECTION AND AUTONOMY

Therapist Neurodiversity Collective International

• Therapy • Advocacy • Education
Established January 2018

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Compliance Model	Autonomy/Connection Model
My thoughts, experiences, and perspectives are less important than those of the person in charge.	My thoughts, experiences and perspectives are important.
Other people pick the words they think I want to say. They are wrong more often than they know.	I choose what I say, when I say it, to whom I say it.
Others require me to communicate in a specific way (e.g., AAC, speech).	I use the communication strategy that works for me in the moment (e.g., body language, facial expressions, gestures, speech, vocalizations, AAC).
Rewards are often used to get me to say things.	Expressing myself and being understood are the reasons I communicate.
Interactions are highly structured by others and may not be what I find interesting or meaningful.	Interactions are intrinsically meaningful and interesting to me.
People question my ability and are frequently testing me.	Others believe that I have potential to learn. They accept what I can do now and work with me to build my skills.
I'm trying to work on someone else's agenda. It can be confusing and anxiety producing. It can make it harder to organize my thoughts and body.	I'm acting for my own purposes and intents, so it's easier to organize my thoughts and body.
There is a right answer or way to be. Others want me to be different than I am.	Anything I say is respected and responded to. Others value and respect me as I am.
I'm often uneasy and may not feel safe. I spend my limited energy on trying to figure out what I'm supposed to do.	I feel safe. I can use my energy to learn and pursue my interests.
I see AAC as work and something other people make me do.	I see my AAC as my voice. Using it helps me.

Connection and autonomy are always greater than compliance!

When teaching AAC, always choose connection & autonomy!