

AAC Myths

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Myths



Realities

AAC is a last resort.

They need to be able to [INSERT PREREQUISITE] before learning AAC.

AAC is only for people who can't speak.

AAC will hinder speech development.

AAC is for expressing basic wants and needs (e.g., food/drink, toileting).

Learners need to be able to select by pointing to a screen.

AAC requires good visual scanning and discrimination.

Learners have to start with low-tech or paper-based AAC before they are ready for high-tech.

High-tech AAC is better than low-tech or non-electronic AAC.

If someone needs AAC now, that means they will always need AAC.

If someone uses AAC, that's the only way they communicate.

AAC makes someone look different than everyone else (i.e., it's identifying)

AAC is a quick fix.

It's never too early or too late to start.

There are no prerequisites. Not cognition, not behavior, not visual discrimination, nor picture identification or matching. None.

AAC can be primary means of communication or to augment speech. AAC can also be used intermittently or temporarily.

AAC can support speech development and provides a means for language development. Learners need to be able to receive and express language to develop their skills.

AAC provides a way to express many communication functions (e.g., requesting, protesting, commenting, asking questions, sharing information).

There are many ways to access AAC (e.g., direct selections, scanning, eye tracking). Access to AAC can be primarily visual, auditory, based on a motor plan, or all of the above.

AAC systems that offer consistent motor plans for access minimize visual discrimination and scanning demands.

Learners can start on high-tech or low-tech AAC as long as it's a robust system.

High-tech and low-tech both have advantages and disadvantages. Everyone should have both!

People may use AAC for a lifetime or a limited time. Some of the time, or all of the time. A person may use AAC while their speech develops or as a supplement to speech.

All people are multi-modal communicators. We all use a combination of strategies to communicate!

Technology is everywhere these days; just possessing an AAC system isn't necessarily identifying. Even if it is, not having AAC to fit in limits someone's right to communicate. Acceptance and inclusion are critical.

AAC is a lot of work, but it is worth it!

Learn more about this:
Practical AAC: AAC Myth Buster Wrap Up
<https://practicalaac.org/practical/aac-myth-buster-wrap-up/AAC>
5 Common AAC Myths by Rebecca Eisenburg, SLP
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sui7ZPOFPsw>

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