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What is AAC? Introduction and Key Principles

Gabriela Berlanga, SLP

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What is AAC?

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is an area of clinical practice that supplements or compensates for impairments in speech-language production and/or comprehension, including spoken and written modes of communication. AAC falls under the broader umbrella of assistive technology, or the use of any equipment, tool, or strategy to improve functional daily living in individuals with disabilities or limitations.

ASHA (American Speech – Language - Hearing Association)

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Aided and Unaided Communication Modes

Unaided

- Body language
- Gestures
- Signs
- Vocalizations
- Speech

Aided

- No tech tools
- Low tech tools
- Mid tech tools
- High tech tools
- Writing
- Email, social media, etc.

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Tools to support language comprehension

- Schedules
- Timers
- Calendars
- Sequences
- Contingency map

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Representation modes

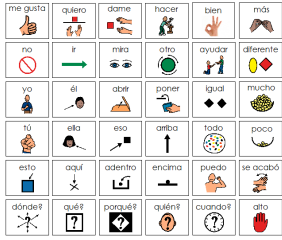
AUDITORY


TACTILE


VISUAL:


- Real objects
- Miniature objects
- Photographs
- Concrete symbols
- Abstract symbols














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Representation modes / a new perspective

Complexity of object







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Representation modes / a new perspective

Complexity of array

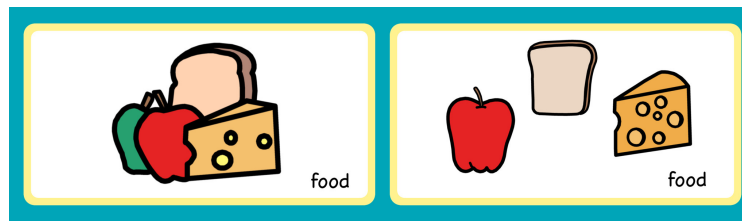


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Representation modes / a new perspective

Background, spacing










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Matt Tietjen "What's the complexity" presentation









Real objetct	Photograph	Realistic color illustration	b/w realistic illustration	Abstract color illustration	b/w color illustration
					
Color luminiscence textura size Salient features context	Color luminiscence texture x features x	Color x x x features x	x x x x features x		

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Types of symbols

- PCS
- PCS thin line
- PCS in context
- PCS high contrast
- Symbol Stix
- ARASAAC
- Widgit
- Rebus
- Metacom
- Pixon
- LAMP
- Minspeak




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Selection Technique

VIDEO




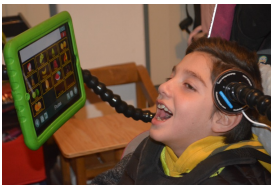
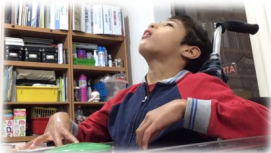
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Selection Technique

- Direct
 - Direct with body part
 - Direct with tool (head pointer, joystick, mouse)
 - Direct distance (head mouse, eye control)
- Scan
 - Non-electronic
 - PAAS (Partner Assisted Auditory Scanning)
 - PAAVS (Partner Assisted Auditory Visual Scanning)
 - Electronic:
 - Automatic, step-scanning
 - Linear, row-column, group-row-column
 - Inverse
 - Auditory, Visual or Auditory Visual Electronic Scanning







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Selection Technique

EVOLVING




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Considerations for modeling

- Auditory
- Visual
- Tactile
- Selection technique?



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Multimodal communication

Different tools


Access mode

Input (visual, auditory, tactile)


generative / specific (context based)



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Communication Matrix



Communication Matrix Profile for Parents and Professionals Standard View

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Continuum of Communication Independence Dr. Patricia Dowden, 2004

TOWARDS COMMUNICATIVE INDEPENDENCE		
EMERGING >	CONTEXT-DEPENDENT >	INDEPENDENT >
Unreliable Symbolic Communication	Reliable Symbolic Communication	
	Limited vocabulary	All topics
	Limited partners	All partners

"the ability to communicate anything on any topic to anyone at anytime"

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Model of Communication Competence

Janice Light



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Social Networks - Social Driven goals -

SUMMARY SHEET B - CCP AND MODES

DATE: _____ TYPE OF COMMUNICATOR: _____

OF PARTNERS/PRIMARY MODE:

OF PARTNERS/PRIMARY MODE:

OF PARTNERS/PRIMARY MODE:

OF PARTNERS/PRIMARY MODE:

OF PARTNERS/PRIMARY MODE:

OF PARTNERS/PRIMARY MODE:

Name: _____

ALL MODES RELIED ON:

- facial expression/body language
- gestures
- vocalizations
- manual signs
- speech
- writing/drawing
- non-electronic communication board/book
- electronic communication device
- special communication software used on a computer
- phone
- email
- other _____

MODES CURRENTLY USED THAT ARE:

EFFECTIVE/EFFICIENT	NOT EFFECTIVE/NOT EFFICIENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Going broader

Person who uses AAC (PWUAAC)

- Tools (multimodal communication)
- Strategies

Communication Partner (CP)

- What we say
- What we wear
- What we do

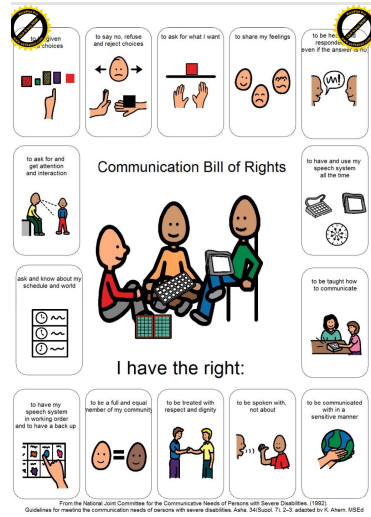
Environment (E)

- Setting (room, light, distractors, etc.)
- Teaching Materials
- Visual supports



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Communication Bill of Rights



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Thank you!!!



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