

MYTHS vs. FACTS

Breaking down the truth about AAC

MYTH	FACT
AAC IS A “LAST RESORT” INTERVENTION	Research shows that early integration of AAC in speech language therapy is important because it helps with the development of language, communication, and social skills.
AAC WILL PREVENT SPOKEN LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT	Research shows that AAC can increase natural speech when therapy uses a multimodal approach using both AAC and spoken communication. There is no evidence that AAC decreases or prevents speech from developing.
AAC IS ONLY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NON SPEAKING	AAC is for any person who does not have reliable speech. If an individual is having trouble communicating using speech, AAC is a tool that can help them meet their communication needs.
AAC IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITIES	Depending on the needs of the individual, AAC systems range from simple switches to communication books to high tech speech generating devices (SGDs). Communication systems are developed based on the specific strengths and needs of the individual.
AAC WILL SOLVE ALL COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS	Success with AAC is based on many different factors, but it can help individuals with any level of expressive language needs by providing them a reliable means to communicate and fix communication breakdowns.

This resource was created in collaboration with the Functional Communication Clinic at Penn State Health.