

WHAT IS AAC?

AAC stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. It encompasses a variety of tools, strategies, and devices that can help individuals who have difficulty using spoken language communicate effectively.

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT AAC PROGRAM?

An AAC evaluation should be conducted by a speech language pathologist (SLP). They will identify the best system based on the individual's communication needs, physical abilities, cognitive level, and preferences.

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM AAC?

Anyone can use AAC, but it is especially helpful for individuals of all ages who have difficulty with spoken language, such as autism, cerebral palsy, stroke, ALS, or other neurological conditions.

IS AAC ONLY FOR PEOPLE WHO CANNOT SPEAK?

No, AAC is for anyone who has difficulty with spoken language. It can be used by individuals who have some speech but need more support to communicate effectively, as well as those who are non speaking.

WILL USING AAC STOP SPEECH FROM DEVELOPING?

No, research shows that using AAC does not impact speech development. In fact, AAC can help support spoken language development by providing a means of communication, reducing frustration, and encouraging language learning.

ARE SPEECH-GENERATING DEVICES (SGDs) COVERED BY INSURANCE?

The cost of AAC devices, also known as SGDs, are often covered by insurances, Medicaid, or other funding sources. An SLP can help with the process of obtaining funding.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BECOME PROFICIENT WITH AAC?

It depends on the individual using the system. There is no specific timeline in which proficiency in AAC will develop. It's important to provide consistent practice using the system, to frequently model on the device, and provide lots of support.

CAN AAC SYSTEMS BE PERSONALIZED?

Yes, it important to personalize the system to reflect an AAC user's preferences and needs. This can include customizing vocabulary, symbols, and voice settings.

*This resource was created in collaboration with the
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