

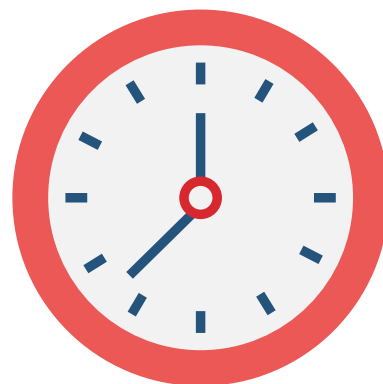
How does waiting help encourage use of AAC?

WHAT IS WAIT TIME?

Wait time is when we intentionally pause during interactions e.g., the communication partner is not speaking, not pointing to the device they are just waiting until the AAC user makes an attempt to communicate using their communication system.

WHAT DOES WAIT TIME DO?

- Lets the AAC user know it is their turn
- Reduces prompt dependency
- Gives time for the AAC user to think about and process what you said
- Gives the AAC user time to put together their message



IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

Wait time is different for every AAC user. You will find the best wait time for through trial and error. Start with 5 seconds and increase as needed.

The silence that comes with providing wait time may feel awkward for communication partners because we want to fill the silence, but it is very important that we give the AAC user that wait time and silence.

Unlike spoken language, AAC requires additional time for AAC users to navigate their device or select the correct symbols or words. That is why waiting is very important. They need that extra time.

Being patient is important. Don't rush or pressure the AAC user. Giving wait time respects the pace of their communication.

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