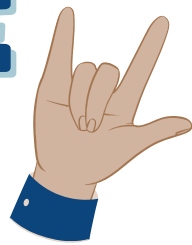


SPEECH & LANGUAGE

Monthly Parent Newsletter



**EVERYONE DESERVES TO FEEL
LIKE THEIR WORDS MATTER.**

WHAT IS AAC?

AAC stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

It includes all the tools, strategies, and techniques used to support or replace spoken language

AAC can help support students learn language and facilitate their expressive language.

AAC CAN INCLUDE:

Unaided (no external tool required) options:

Body language, facial expressions, gestures, manual signs, vocalizations, finger spelling and verbalizations

Aided (requires an external tool) options:

Low-tech

- communication board or books
- objects
- pictures/photographs
- visual schedule
- writing

High tech

- computer/tablet/smartphone
- speech generating device

WHO USES AAC?:

Anyone from infancy to elderly can use AAC. They may use AAC due to a range of causes including an acquired injury (e.g., TBI, aphasia), congenital condition (e.g., cerebral palsy, Autism, hearing loss), or a condition that worsens over time (e.g., dementia, ALS).

AAC MYTHS

AAC will keep my child from learning language and speaking verbally

Not true! AAC does not keep children from using speech and often times, help with language development

My child isn't ready for AAC

There are no prerequisite to using AAC

AAC is only for people who don't speak

AAC can open the doors to a wide range of individuals who are nonverbal, have limited words, and someone who speaks in certain settings but not others.

October is...

**AAC AWARENESS
MONTH**



References:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

<https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/professional-issues/augmentative-and-alternative-communication/>

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A Growing Understanding. AAC Myth Busters: Dispelling Common Misconceptions to Empower Communication.

<https://www.agrowingunderstanding.com.au/aac-myth-busters-dispelling-common-misconceptions-to-empower-communication/>

Lingraphica. Debunking AAC Myths. <https://lingraphica.com/resources/debunking-aac-myths/>