



**Using Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Early Intervention (Part I):
AAC Explained and Myths Busted**


PRESENTED BY
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September 5, 2017 • TALKS ON TUESDAYS WEBINAR






AUDIO DETAILS:
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Learning Objectives:

- Define AAC and key components
- Understand high versus lite tech AAC systems
- Dispel two myths about AAC with toddlers



Who is here today?

- a. SLPs
- b. OTs
- c. PTs
- d. Early Educators
- e. Other



Experience Poll



No experience
what-so-ever?

Some
experience?

A lot of
experience?

*Drop your pointer on the bar
to display your answer.*

What is AAC?

Speak
Settings

Text to speech!

X

Yes

No

Q W E R T Y U I O P

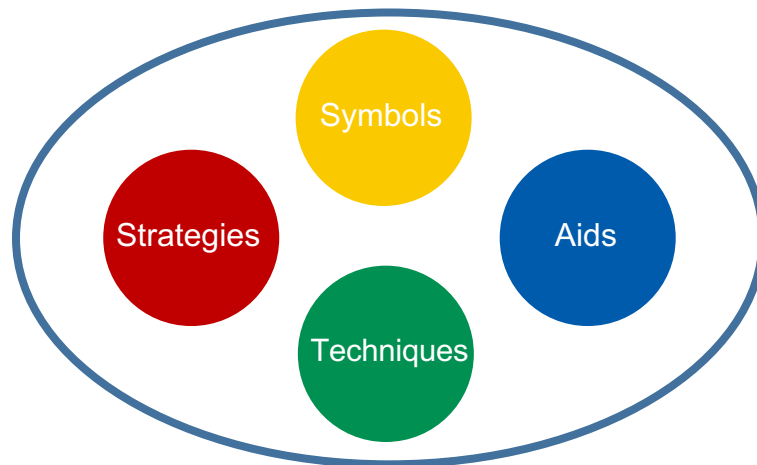
A S D F G H J K L

space

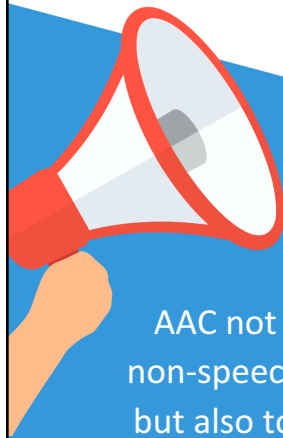
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Go

AAC System Components

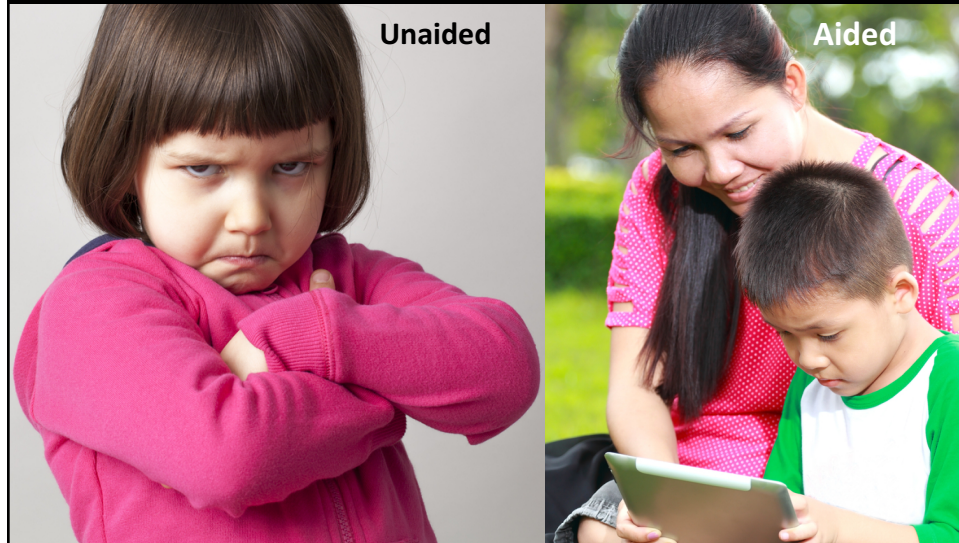


AAC is NOT Just a Device or Picture Board



AAC not only refers to several various types of non-speech modes or systems of communication, but also to a range of strategies and intervention techniques for enabling effective communication with AAC symbols and aids.

Unaided vs. Aided AAC



Aided AAC



No Tech



Lite Tech



High Tech

Aided AAC Examples



Draw a circle around the items that you think are considered Lite Tech.

In 2017

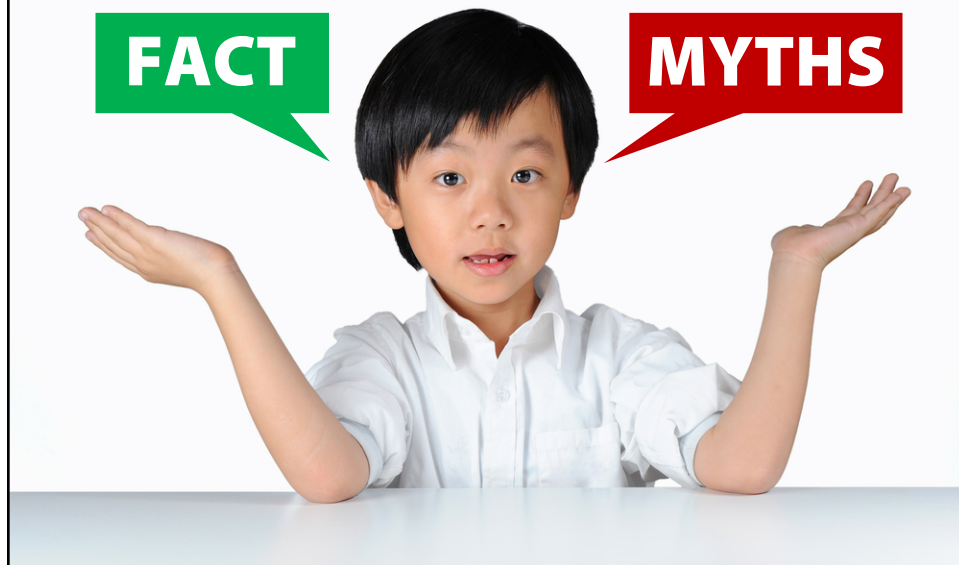
Children at risk for complex communication disorders are identified earlier...

Early intervention services are widely available...

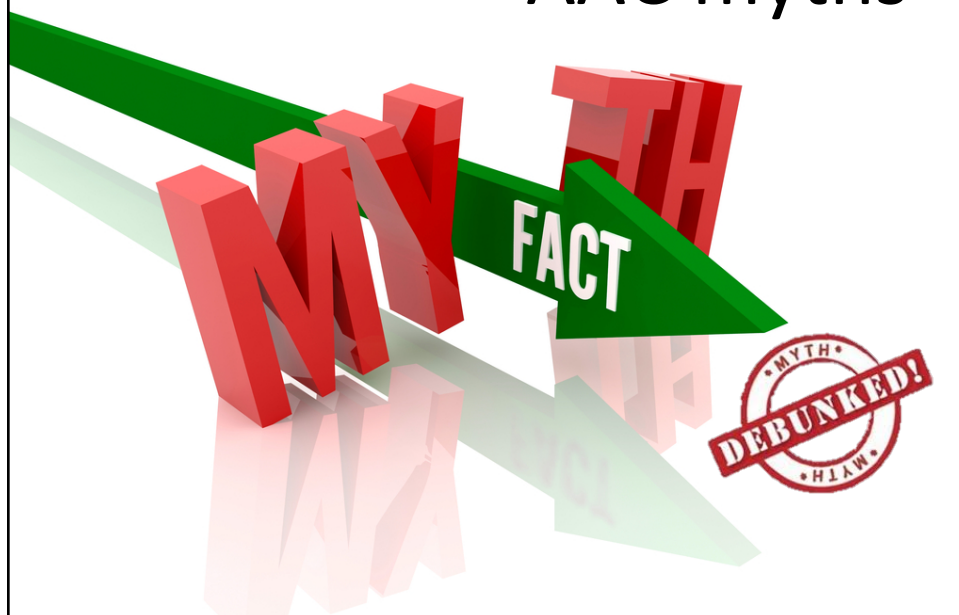
Materials, strategies and technology for communication changes and improves daily...

SO, WHY DON'T YOUNG CHILDREN USE AAC???

Here's Why: AAC Myths



AAC myths





Negative Impact
on Verbal Speech
& Language Skills

Who has heard any of
the following remarks?



Negative Impact
on Verbal Speech
& Language Skills

Introducing AAC will reduce a person's
motivation to improve natural speech
and will hinder language development.



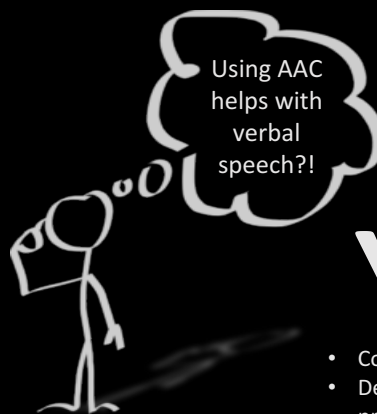
Negative Impact on Verbal Speech & Language Skills

AAC should be introduced only after the ability to use natural speech has been completely ruled out.



Why is this False?

Millar, Light & Schlosser, 2006:
The research speaks for itself.



Yes!

- Consistent auditory models
- Decrease in communicative pressure



#1

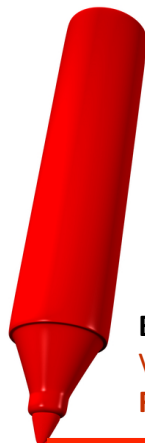
Why is this False?

- AAC use helps language development.
- Adults can use the system to model language.
- The child can explore new language!
There are no “mistakes”!
- It expands a child’s circle of communication.



#1

Why is this False?



- Is her speech sufficient to have needs met?
- Is the child’s message his/her own?
- Is she intelligible? Across environments?
- Can the small amount of speech “keep up” with new language experiences?

BOTTOM LINE —

Verbal speech does not automatically equal
FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION.

- You don't need to "choose" verbal v. AAC.
- Verbal speech can be supplemented with AAC.
- Verbal speech may be a nice bonus.

WHY



IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Limited verbal abilities don't have to equal limited language abilities.
- Don't delay language through a "wait and see" approach.
- Provide social opportunities through modes other than "natural" speech.

WHY



IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Video Example



Link for you to watch later: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/ipads-improve-language-skills-in-autistic-kids/>



#2

Prerequisite Skills are Required

Who has heard any of the following remarks?





Prerequisite Skills are Required

Prerequisite language skills are required
to use AAC.



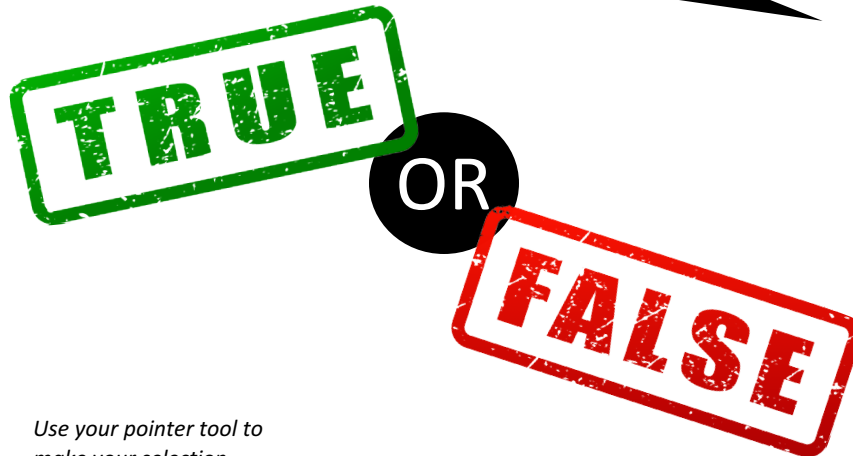
Prerequisite Skills are Required

Individuals with cognitive deficits are not
able to use AAC.

Why is this False?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



Video Example



Link for you to watch later:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuH0o22zQCw>



Real-Life
Example







Meghan Reitz,
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THANK YOU!



Cary G. Hastings,
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We will see you on October 3rd for
***Using Augmentative and Alternative
Communication in Early Intervention (Part II):
More Myths Debunked and Strategies***

