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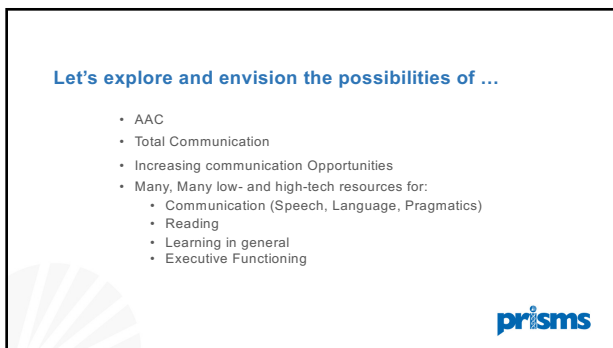
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### Speaker Disclosures

Financial Disclosures:

- Chandani & Burns, LLC Speech Therapy (Owner)
- Speaker honorariums

Non-Financial Disclosures:

- Tech Ideas/Suggestions




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### AAC

- What is AAC?
- How do I know if my child needs AAC?
  - Nonverbal or limited verbal
  - Poor or unintelligible speech (speech is hard to understand)
  - Limited vocabulary
  - Many scripted phrases
  - Someone thinks your child needs AAC!

*"Not being able to speak is not the same as not having anything to say."*  
Rosemary Crossley



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### Myth Busters!


#### Common Myths about AAC:



- My child is verbal (can talk).
- Using AAC will hinder or stop verbal communication/speech development.
- My child may stop talking and will rely on their device.
- AAC is the last resort.
- My child is not ready for a device.
- My child is too young for AAC.




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Think of AAC as VISUAL SUPPORTS!

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### total communication




Photo Credit – UCL Communication Clinic – <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/communication-clinic/2017/03/24/total-communication-top-tips/>




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### total communication



#### Why is TC important?


Helps get the message across when speaking is hard.  
Everyone has important things to say.  
Builds self-awareness, teaches intentionality, and increased motivation to communicate.



#### How do we encourage and support TC?


Be a detective!  
Acknowledge ALL communication.  
"I see you're pointing at the door. Seems like you are ready to leave."  
"Your smile tells me you like this! Here's the sign for – I like this!"

*"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." GBS*



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**All behavior is a form of communication.**



**WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACT ON THIS BELIEF WITH BABIES. THE CHALLENGE IS HOLDING ONTO THIS TRUTH AS THE CHILD MATURES.**

**prisms**

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*  
 – Maya Angelou

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**AAC Continuum**

- Low Tech – Sign language, Picture exchange, Communication boards
- Mid Tech – Static Devices (e.g., Go Talk)
- High Tech – Speech generating devices (SGDs); iPad apps

How do I know which one is right for my child?

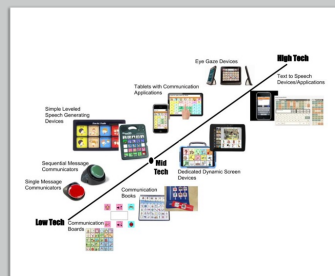




Photo Credit: <https://sites.google.com/a/nssed.org/nssedintegratedtech/resources/communication/aac-continuum>

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**AAC: High Tech**

- A robust language system
- Different parts of speech – Allows for spontaneous and novel utterances (SNUG)
- Grows with student over time
- Core and fringe vocabulary
- Social phrases (e.g., No way! You're funny!)
- Can hide/mask words
- Keyboard
- Motor planning

<http://practicalaac.org/practical/linguistically-robust-aac-systems/>

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**Transitioning from PECS..**

I want apple

**..to a full communication system:**

can we make applesauce?

Photo credit: <http://www.assistiveware.com/transitioning-pecs-full-communication-system>

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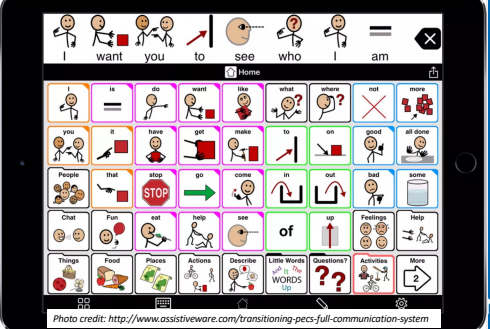



Photo credit: <http://www.assistiveware.com/transitioning-pecs-full-communication-system>

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**Aided Language Stimulation**

**Partner Augmented Input**

- Teach AAC by speaking AAC!
- During ALS, the communication partner \_\_\_\_\_ to a graphic symbol while simultaneously producing the corresponding spoken message during natural communicative exchanges.
- Model the language without expecting or requiring a response and think beyond requesting!



"We wouldn't teach someone to drive by giving them a lecture, losing them a book, and then turning them loose on the freeway." Jim Knight

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BY 18 MONTHS babies have heard 4,380 HOURS OF SPOKEN LANGUAGE and we don't expect them to be fluent speakers YET

If AAC learners only see symbols modeled for communication twice weekly for 20-30 minutes, it will take 84 YEARS for them to have the same exposure to aided language as an 18 month old has to spoken language.

statistic from Jane Korsten, QAT Liaison 2011  
photo by Rochelle Langley, AAC Specialist

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Some free AAC apps to try ...

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Communication (AAC)

TouchChat

LAMP Words For Life

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How to create/increase communication opportunities?

Make	IT FUNCTIONAL!!
Think	MOTIVATION!! What will increase ENGAGEMENT? Something interesting, unusual, shocking, gross, weird, ... (Interest Inventory)
Sabotage	Desired items out of reach/missing
DON'T DEMAND	As in, "Show me EAT." "Tell me on your device." Instead, INVITE them to communicate ("I wonder what you want." "It looks like you want to eat.")
Use	FOMO!! ("Yum!!" "Wow, I love this! This is so much fun!")
Think	Beyond requesting (other communicative functions). Think of Typical Language Development (e.g., Goldfish – Yum! Daddy Goldfish! Vs. "I want")

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Some Familiar Tools:

- Video Calls (FaceTime/Skype/Whatsapp)
- Voice messages (e.g., Whatsapp, Voice Memo)
- Video modeling
- Audio and Videofeedback (e.g., Voice Memo)
- Speech-to-text (phone, Google docs)
- Text-to-speech
- PowerPoint slides/Google Slides (Story Creation, Narratives, Social Stories)
- Flashcards (Digital/Apps, e.g., Brainscape, Quizlet)

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Low Tech Visual Supports:

- Thought Bubbles
- Sentence strips (visual supports)  
For example, to help stay on topic:  
"That makes me think of..."  
"Speaking of ..."

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### Low Tech AAC/Visual Supports:

- Communication boards

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### Interactive Apps

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### PBS KIDS

Popular with younger children

YOUR FAVORITE PBS KIDS CHARACTERS

ALL GAME TOPICS

- Summer Games
- Feelings Games
- Nature Games
- Friends & Neighbors
- Music Games
- Animals Games
- Play Together Games
- Adventure Games
- Storytelling Games
- Reading Games
- Science Games
- Stress Up Games
- Create Games
- Shapes Games
- Disco's Games
- Space Games
- Arts Games
- Styming Games
- Engineering Games
- Math Games

FEELINGS GAMES

Guess the Feeling

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### nick jr.

### 123 SESAME STREET

Popular with younger children

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### HIGH INTEREST!

- ✓ Animated Shorts
- ✓ AFHV
- ✓ Mr. Beast
- ✓ Mr. Bean (pragmatics)
- ✓ FailArmy (older kids)
- ✓ Depending on interest (e.g., cooking videos)

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### Apps (Narratives: Digital Story Creation)

- Book Creator
- Stickerbook
- MyStory
- Pictello

Enrich your story books with hundreds of curated, fun, and inclusive backgrounds and stickers

Create multi-page books with voice recording, stickers, text, and pictures

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Resources for Reading

epic!

Reading A-Z

VOOKS  
Storybooks brought to life

ReadWorks

newsela

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My Biggest Takeaways:

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Ideas I want to try (after listing them, write 1 and 2 next to the ones you would like to try right away):

*"Nothing will work unless you do!" (Maya Angelou)*

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You are amazing!  
Thank you for making a  
difference every day!

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Feel free to contact me:

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