



AAC Newsletter

Your bi-monthly newsletter about AAC!
please click on pictures to access more information



AAC Strategies:

Beginner strategy:

Model, Model, Model!

Encourage exploration of the device by everyone! Model during engaging activities with no expectation that your child will use the device. Try to refrain from giving directions on the device, instead we can use visuals for this.



Advance Strategy: Expansion

Expansion: include adding a word to a child's previous communication production. Example: If the user says "cat," you could say "brown cat" or "little cat." Adding the color or size introduces new language concepts for your child to learn!

Literacy Tips Shared Reading

- Comment about the story and pictures as you read.
- Ask open-ended questions or pause to invite a comment in return.
- Model key words using AAC.
- Pay attention to the text as well as the pictures. Point to key words in the text while reading, and use your finger to show how you read from left to right.
- Find books with repetition or with topics of high interest.
- <https://literacyforallinstruction.ca/shared-reading/>



CONTACT US



We would love to
hear your AAC
success stories!

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AAC modeling video link



AAC Myth

Myth: AAC interferes with verbal speech development.

Fact: AAC does NOT prevent or reduce verbal speech.

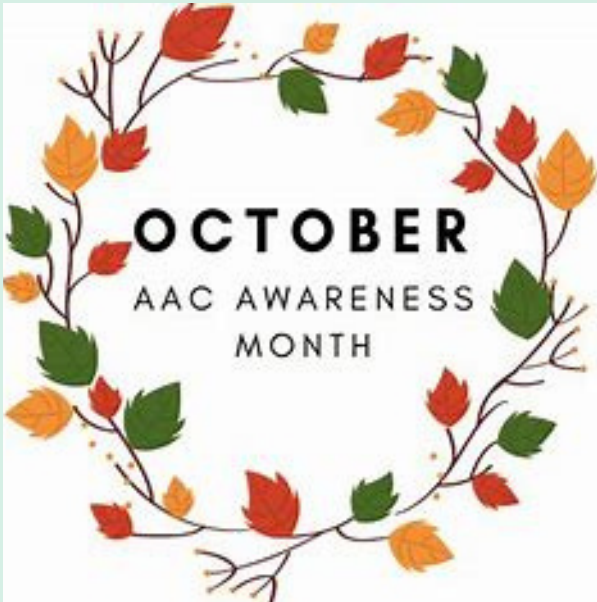
Research shows that using AAC actually supports verbal speech and language development. While some people use AAC their whole life, others use it temporarily (even for a few months). AAC can reduce frustration and set the foundation for improved communication skills. It also helps with learning language. Click on the fact check button for more information!



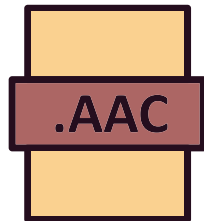


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AAC APP
SALE LINK



AAC TIP: GUIDED ACCESS

- It allows the student to view the iPad as a vehicle for communication.
- If the iPad is used for activities such as, YouTube or the camera app ; the iPad becomes seen as a tool for games, not for communication.
- Prevents accidental deletion of vocabulary
- Click the picture to find out more!



IMPORTANT AAC EDITING TIPS



- Editing the home page of an AAC device can have significant implications. Here are some reasons why [it's important to NOT edit the home page!](#)
- Ease of Access: The home page typically provides access to the most frequently used functions and vocabulary. A well-organized home page means that users can quickly find what they need without excessive searching, which is essential for smooth communication.
- Motor Planning: For individuals using AAC devices, motor planning involves the physical process of selecting symbols or words. A well-designed home page with clearly labeled and logically organized buttons reduces the cognitive and motor effort needed to make selections, making it easier to plan and execute movements.
- Consistency and Familiarity: A consistent and familiar layout on the home page helps users develop and maintain motor plans over time. When users repeatedly access the same locations for common tasks, they can more easily remember and anticipate where to find needed items, reducing cognitive load. Imagine how frustrating it would be if the letters on your keyboard changed frequently!



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
LEARNING SERVICES

AAC GOES HOME



Please join us

For online parent education sessions to help you build communication at home using AAC.

To register,
please contact
Ava.Chen@ecsd.net

Date	Topic	Description
October 29/24 6:30-7:30	AAC- Regulation and Access	Ideas on how to build regulations skills and build access to help with AAC implementation.
November 26/24 6:30-7:30	AAC Basics: Modelling and More!	Includes getting started at home, possible ways to engage your child with AAC. How to incorporate AAC during any routine at home or in the community.
December 17/24 6:30-7:30	Personalizing your Child's Device	What are those powerful words that your child needs on their device? Who are the people they love most? What are their favorite activities? All are good words to add, we will show you how.
January 28/25 6:30-7:30	AAC myths and Advocating for AAC	Let's investigate what the research tells us about AAC and how you as parents can advocate for your child.
February 25/25 6:30-7:30	More Than Requests!	There is so much more your child will learn to use their device for than only ask for things. They will learn to make comments, tell you what they did, complain & protest, ask questions and more!
March 18/25 6:30-7:30	Progress: What Does it Look Like?	How do you know if your child is improving? We will chat about some of the signs to look for and why it feels like it takes so long.
April 29/25 6:30-7:30	AAC Basics: Modeling and More- the next level!	How to incorporate AAC during any routine at home or in the community. What have you tried? What were your struggles? More ideas to support you at home & in the community.
May 27/25 6:30-7:30	AAC Fun at Home & in the Community	How to build AAC into your community and home routines. Exploring All About Me and Communication Inventories. We will discuss ideas to incorporate AAC into your summer as your routine changes.

