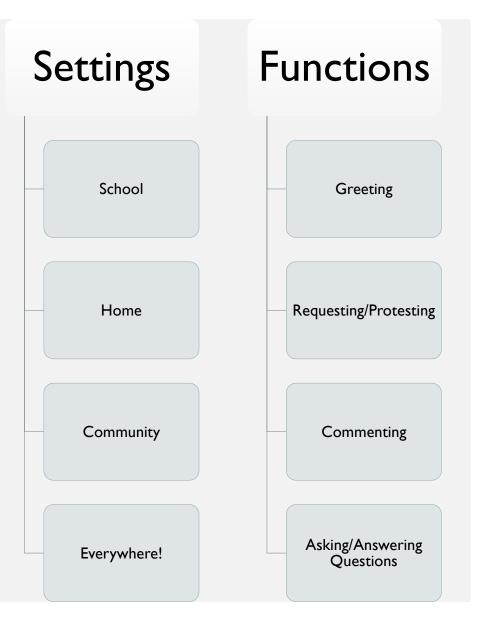
WHAT IS AAC? AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)

WHAT IS AAC?

- AAC is Augmentative and Alternative Communication. AAC includes all forms of communication other than oral speech (i.e. gestures, symbols, pictures, writing).
- The chosen mode of communication (low-tech, high-tech, no-tech) is the USER'S VOICE!

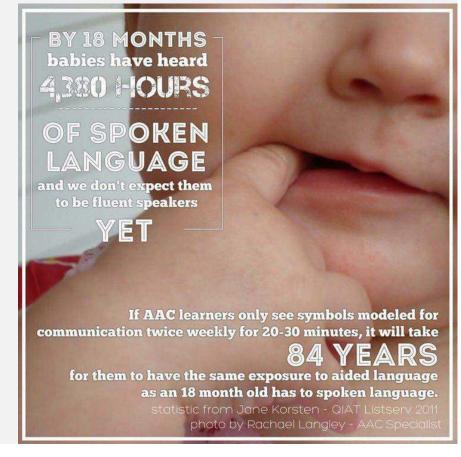
AAC IS USED ACROSS ALL SETTINGS FOR EVERY COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION!

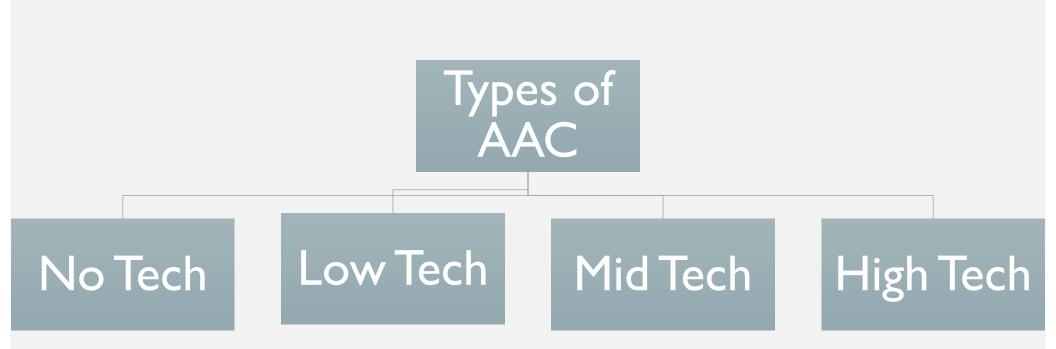


EXPOSURE IS KEY!

Our students learn how to use AAC through <u>exposure</u> and <u>modeling</u> from the communication partner. That's you!

- Recommendations:
 - Model 1-2 words *more* that the student's current abilities. Similar to verbally expanding messages.
 - "Want ball" -> "Want red ball" or "kick ball up high"
 - Model grammar
 - Model at a SLOW RATE
 - Narrate and Think Out Loud as you navigate device





NO TO LOW TECH

No Tech

- Does not require a device or tool for communication
- Examples include:
 - Gestures (pointing, looking, head nods)
 - Hand signs (hand sign for more)
 - Facial Expressions
 - Vocalizations (sounds, grunting)
 - Verbalizations (words, sentences)
 - Body language



Low Tech

- Requires a personalized device or communication system that is not battery powered
- Can be used to communicate by pointing to item/picture or by handing items/pictures to someone (PECS)
- Typically includes:
 - Physical objects
 - Pictures (PECS or PODD)
 - o Written words
 - Communication boards/books
- Low tech communication devices require that individuals who work with the student personalize it and continually add items based on student's needs

MID TECH

- Static Display
- Requires some power source (batteries)
 - Be prepared to take inventory of batteries & ALWAYS have them on hand. You don't want the child to "lose" their voice for the day.
- Requires programming to put what you want on
- Varied image capacities (field of I-30)
- Provide voice message when image or symbol is pressed
 - Can be single-message voice output device (Big Mac)
 - Static display voice output (multiple images)
 - Important to tailor voice to age/gender of child
 - E.g. don't want a man's voice for a Middle school aged girl
 - E.g. don't want a girl's voice for a high school aged boy

EXAMPLES

- Alpha Talker
- TechSpeak
- QuickTalker
- Switch adapted games
- Big Mac switch with verbal output
- o Go Talk





HIGH TECH

- Dynamic display
- Synthesized voice output
 - Male or Female increasing naturalness
- Larger vocabulary available
- Can often take pictures to personalize device
- Language and sentence building
- Can store commonly used phrases or messages.
- Vocabulary organization can be different from device to device which may effect device recommendation
- Can also be referred to as Speech Generating Devices (SGDs) or Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCAs).



REFERENCES

- Autism Speaks
 - <u>https://www.autismspeaks.org/worksheet/assistive-technology-communication-roadmap</u>
- American Speech-Language Hearing Association
 - https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/aac/
- Praactical AAC
 - <u>https://praacticalaac.org</u>