

## Augmentative Alternative Communication

What is Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC)?

AAC includes other modes of communication that attempt, either temporarily or permanently, to compensate for an impairment/disability in individuals with severe expressive communication disorders.

What is the purpose of an AAC Evaluation?

The purpose of an AAC evaluation is to identify supports, tools and/or equipment to facilitate meaningful participation in daily life activities and functional communication skills. Results of an evaluation may include a trial of a particular device prior to determining its efficacy.

What is involved in an AAC Evaluation?

A licensed speech-language pathologist will complete the evaluation.

Review of previous evaluations to determine cognitive, physical, literacy and language abilities will be completed. This enhances the process of matching an AAC user to an appropriate AAC technique, tool or device.

A case history will be obtained to gain important developmental information, tools/techniques used thus far and expectations for the evaluation.

Observations may occur at home and/or school settings if possible to help determine current level of communication skills (baseline) in natural environments.

Based on this compiled information various techniques, tools and devices may be selected to try during the assessment. This evaluation is dynamic in nature and a tool is deemed effective if an improvement in communicative performance is observed with a given tool when compared to the baseline observations made.

A written report will be provided outlining tools used during the assessment, results and recommendations. Feedback/consultation will be provided regarding results.

What are AAC techniques, tools and devices?

AAC can include a wide range of tools and devices including no tech, low tech and high tech. These can range from pictures, scripts to devices with pre-recorded messages to more sophisticated devices which allow for more flexible language usage and communication. For a glossary of AAC terms visit: <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/AAC-Glossary/>

For more complete information about AAC see the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) website at: <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/AAC/>

Source: American Speech and Hearing Association, [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)