

ASSESS FOR SUCCESS:

When to Refer A Child for an AAC Assessment

What is Augmentative and Alternative Communication?

Using tools or strategies that are designed to either support or replace spoken communication

All AAC is not just "high tech;" it comes in many forms, such as gesture, facial expressions, manual signs, communication boards, etc.



<http://aac-lerc.psu.edu/index.php/pages/show/id/46>

A wide variety of characteristics can be warning signs for the need of an AAC assessment.

Refer for an AAC Assessment if the Child...

- Has unintelligible (unclear) speech that can only be understood by some people
- Is unable to participate in activities that same age peers can due to communication problems
- Is unable to clarify during conversation when someone doesn't understand him or her
- Has behavioral issues resulting from frustration in communication (e.g., tantrums, self-injury, withdrawal)
- Has a pre-existing diagnosis of autism, childhood apraxia of speech, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, or other motor-speech disorder
- Has communication needs that he or she can't meet by speaking
- Has family members who are concerned about his or her speech abilities (e.g., they notice their child communicates differently than peers).

If you're unsure, talk to your school's speech-language pathologist.

Keep in Mind...

Just because a child has some functional speech does not mean he/she couldn't benefit from AAC!



-AAC is not "giving up" on development of natural speech. Research has indicated that AAC does not inhibit natural speech and can in fact facilitate its development (Miller, Light, & Schlosser, 2006)

-The "wait and see" strategy is never the best strategy. AAC should be introduced as early as possible to support the development of language comprehension and production. (Cress & Marvin, 2003)