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## An iPad for AAC? What You Need to Know

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## An iPad for AAC?

Stephanie Meehan, Ph.D., CCC-SLP



# Hello!

Dr. Stephanie Meehan

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Introduction to AAC, MA level course

Promoting Access & Advocacy to Communication and Education (PAACE) team



# Today's Topics

Short Introduction

A Word on Comprehensive Assessments

Options for AAC on iPad/tablets

Just in Time Programming

Resources for Success

Communication Partner Training

Resources





## Learner Outcomes

After this course, participants will be able to:

- List comprehensive and robust AAC applications and accessibility features available on the iPad.
- Identify common communication partner behaviors and describe methods of training.
- Describe "just in time" programming.



## I hold these truths to be self-evident...

Communication is a human right.

There are no prerequisites to accessing a high-tech, dynamic, robust AAC system.

AAC does not hinder verbal communication.

It's never too early or too late.

Start with what you have, right now.

## AAC and the iPad

iPads are:

Relatively inexpensive

Socially acceptable

Readily available

Portable

iPads are not:

AAC devices

Accessible to all (in a variety of ways)

Durable

Universally funded

As SLPs we have an ethical responsibility to complete a comprehensive AAC assessment.

# AAC Assessment Resources

ASHA Practice Portal, <https://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Augmentative-and-Alternative-Communication/>

PrAACticalAAC.com, <https://praacticalaac.org>

Communication Matrix, <https://communicationmatrix.org>

Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Supporting Children and Adults with Complex Communication Needs, David R. Beukelman and Pat Mirenda

AAC Evaluation Genie (Hump Software, iTunes)

## THE PARTICIPATION MODEL FOR AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

Beukelman & Mirenda (2013)



Figure 8.1. The Participation Model for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).

Source: Beukelman, D. R., & Mirenda, P. (2013). Augmentative and alternative communication: Supporting children and adults with complex communication needs. Baltimore, MD: Brookes. Reprinted with permission.



## Domains for Assessment

Cognition  
Language  
Literacy  
Motor  
Sensory

Strength based approach

## Feature Matching

A process in which a person who uses AAC strengths and needs (current & future) are evaluated and matched to specific features of AAC symbols, strategies, & devices. (Costello & Shane, 1994)

Feature matching provides a framework for clinical decision making rather than making a recommendation based on media coverage, public testimony, personal thoughts, experience, or comfort level, and well meaning friends and family.

## Access

Access methods are a very important feature.

Traditionally iPads have only been accessible via direct selection. However this is changing.

- You can use Bluetooth capability to use switches
- You can also use the built in accessibility features of the iPad to use eyegaze capability, currently limited

## Assessments can include iPad applications but...

Assumptions should not be made!

Contact AAC device and application manufacturers to acquire devices and apps for assessments

SLPs with their CCCs can get some apps for free

iPads are not always fundable

Assessments should include three separate dedicated devices

## Options for AAC and the iPad

LAMP WFL (PRC)

TouchChat (Saltillo)

Grid (Smartbox)

Snap Scene  
(TobiiDynavox)

Snap + Core First  
(TobiiDynavox)

Speak for Yourself

Proloquo2Go

CoughDrop

Project Core\*

AACorn

## Core Vocabulary?

## Just In Time Programming

- Concept researched by Janice Light and colleagues
- Enables communication partners to program vocabulary relevant to immediate interest and environment
- Takes advantage of visual scene displays (VSDs depict scenes of natural life events involving people, Light et al., 2004) and hotspot technology
- Reduces operational demands
- Very flexible, can increase turns
- May be impermanent





## Make the Most of using iPad for AAC

Guided Access

Dedicated iPad for communication ONLY

Mounts

Cases

Harnesses

Switches

EX. Blue 2 Bluetooth Switch

<https://www.ablenetinc.com/blue2-bluetooth-switch>

Look out for sales!

— AAC Awareness Month (October)

— Autism Awareness Month (April)

— Better Speech and Hearing Month (May)



## Guided Access

How to enable Guided Access on iPhone and iPad

Launch the Settings app on your iPhone or iPad.

Tap on General.

Tap on Accessibility.

Tap on Guided Access under the Learning section.

Tap General, tap Accessibility, tap Guided Access

Tap the switch to turn on Guided Access.

Tap on Passcode Settings.

Tap Set Guided Access Passcode to set a passcode.

Tap the switch to turn on Guided Access, tap Passcode Settings, tap Set Guided Access Passcode, set a passcode

Toggle Accessibility Shortcut to On, which allows you to triple-click the Home button and enter Guided Access at any time.





## Accessibility features of iOS

### Speak Screen

Turn on Speak Screen and swipe down from the top of the screen with two fingers, or just tell Siri to Speak Screen, to have all the content on pages read back to you.

Display Accommodations: Adjust the contrast

Go to Settings > General > Accessibility > Display Accommodations > Invert Colors



## Switch Control:

Bluetooth switch or Made for iPhone switch, Screen: Tap the screen to use a switch or press and hold, Camera: Move your head to use the iPhone front-facing camera as a switch. You can use the camera as two switches: One when you move your head to the left, and the other when you move your head to the right.

Add a switch and choose its action:

Go to Settings > General > Accessibility > Switch Control > Switches.

Tap Add New Switch and choose a source.

Follow the steps to choose how you want the switch to work.

Turn on Switch Control, so you can use your new switch. Settings > General > Accessibility > Switch Control and turn the setting on or off or triple-click the Home button or the Side button on certain models at any time to exit Switch Control.

## Assistive Touch

1. Go to Settings > General > Accessibility > Assistive Touch, then turn on AssistiveTouch.
2. Tell Siri "Turn on AssistiveTouch."
3. Go to Settings > General > Accessibility > Accessibility Shortcut and turn on AssistiveTouch.

You can use Assistive Touch to make using the gestures on your iPad easier or use other methods of controlling the device.

## Communication Partner Training

"The average 18 month old has been exposed to 4,380 hours of oral language at a rate of 8 hours per day from birth. A child who has a communication system (AAC) and receives speech/language therapy 2 times/week for 20-30 minutes will reach the same amount of language exposure (in their AAC language) in 84 years."

-Jane Korsten

## Communication Partners

Control the conversation

Ask too many questions

Ask yes/no questions

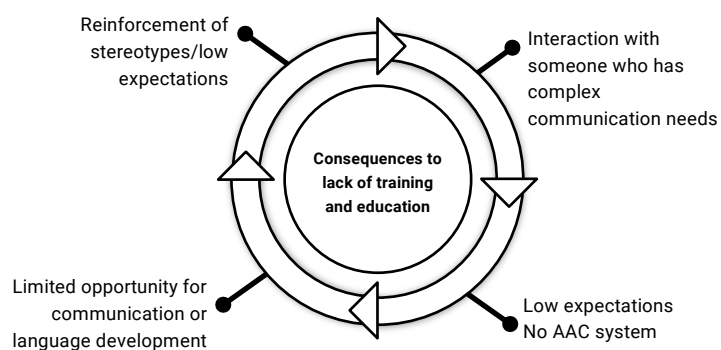
Take majority of turns

Interrupt

Speak in an age disrespectful tone, rate, and pitch

Speak about the person who uses AAC in front of them

Speak to the caregiver instead of the person who uses AAC



Meehan, 2018





## Partner Communication Training and Tips

ImPAACT (Kent-Walsh, Binger, McNaughton)

SMORRES (Senner and Baud, 2016)

MODEL

4:1 ratio of comments to questions

WAIT



## ImPAACT

Stage	Description
Pretest and commitment to instructional program	Take pretest measurements; Introduce target strategy; Discuss strengths and weaknesses; Communication partners commit to participate in program
Strategy description	Describe strategy; Discuss impact of implementation
Strategy demonstration	Model the strategy and explain steps
Verbal practice of strategy steps	Practice naming and describing all steps
Controlled practice and feedback	Practice strategy in controlled contexts with feedback
Advanced practice and feedback	Practice strategy in multiple contexts with feedback
Posttest and commitment to long-term use	Document and review mastery of strategy, compare to baseline. Elicit feedback. Create action plan to generalize.
Generalization of targeted strategy use	Practice strategy in more settings; plan for long term use.

## SMORRES

S	Speak
Mo	Model
R	Respect and Reflect
R	Repeat
E	Expand
S	Stop

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Project Core Implementation Model: Putting into Practice with Communication Apps and Devices (PDF, 70 pages, 4.4 MB) by Dr. Lori Geist

Project Core Reexamined: Year 3 Review (PDF, 60 pages, 6 MB) by Dr. Lori Geist, Dr. Karen Erickson, Kathryn Dorney, and Sofia Benson-Goldberg

Senner, Jill & R. Baud, Matthew. (2016). The Use of an Eight-Step Instructional Model to Train School Staff in Partner-Augmented Input. *Communication Disorders Quarterly*. 38.