

# Using AAC in Early Childhood



Access to AAC tools  
can be beneficial for  
all children.

AAC can help kids learn  
skills like...

- turn taking and requesting
- receptive and expressive language skills
- morphology and phonological awareness
- reading and writing skills



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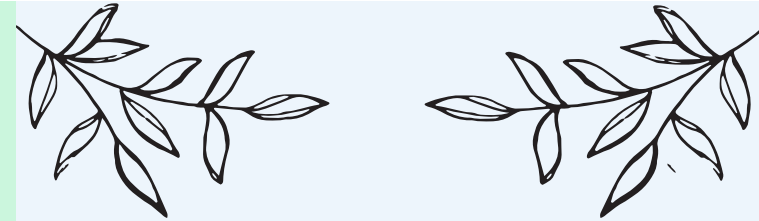
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## GETTING STARTED WITH AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)



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Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable.

— David Augsburger

## What is AAC?

Augmentative & Alternative Communication can be tools, devices, systems, or strategies used to help an individual communicate.

There are two types of AAC:

### Aided AAC

- symbol or choice boards
- aided language input
- communication books
- speech generating communication tools

### Unaided AAC

- facial expressions
- body language
- sign language
- gestures

## What should parents know?

You can help your child be successful with AAC by...

- developing their interest in communication
- providing opportunities that are fun & meaningful
- providing access to tools for communication

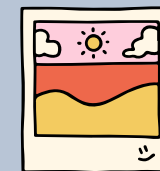
When introducing AAC, it can be helpful to make using the strategies as natural as possible.



You can do this by...

- modeling alternative ways to communicate
- arranging to practice opportunities in multiple settings
- encouraging your child to communicate in multiple ways

## What are some common tools?



### *Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)*

PECS is a strategy consisting of 6 phases, teaching the exchange of pictures and using them to request items or make comments.

### *Visual Scene Displays (VSD)*



VSD's are usually computer or tablet based. They include pictures and videos of people, events, and actions taking place in the child's life. They can represent generic contexts or can be personalized to include the child's needs.