

### WHAT IS AAC?

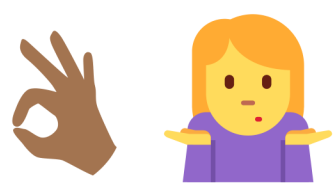
AAC includes all the ways we communicate without talking. We all use AAC every day!



Pen and paper



Letters, keyboards & emojis

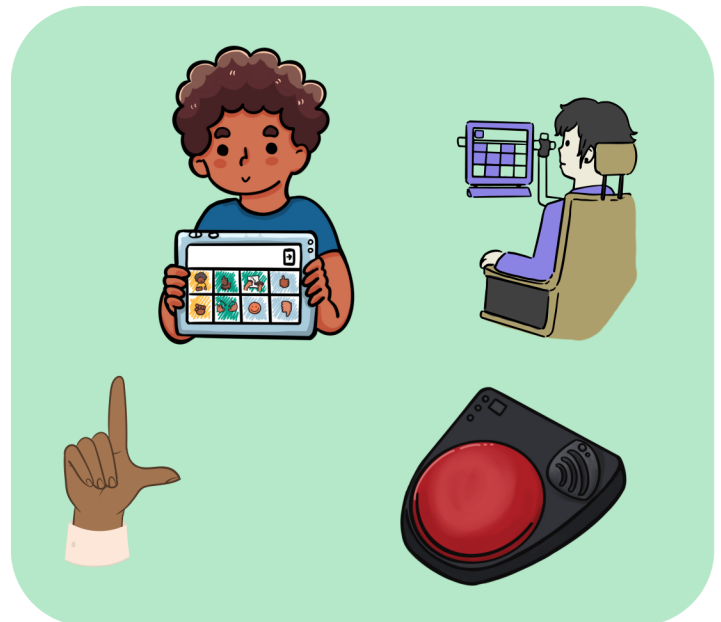


Gestures and body language

### IT'S ALL ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY

When **MOVING** is hard, these tools can help.

When **SPEAKING** is hard, these tools can help.



Some children use AAC in the short-term until their speech develops. Some children will use it in the long-term. AAC allows everyone to share their thoughts and ideas!

## Will AAC keep my child from learning to speak?

- **Nope.** Learning to use AAC doesn't keep kids from learning to speak. In fact, research shows it often helps!
- Some children are motivated to copy the sounds and words they hear when using their AAC system.
- AAC also helps children build their vocabulary and language skills, which can reduce their frustration levels and make life a whole lot easier for everyone.



## When will my child be ready to use AAC?



- **Whenever you are!** Kids just need to have a motivated adult or friend who will learn to use the system with them and show them how to produce words and phrases.
- Children don't need skills like matching, pointing, or recognizing pictures first. They can learn all these skills at the same time as being introduced to their AAC system.

## How long will it take to learn how to use?

- **It can take time.** Learning to use an AAC system is the same as learning a new language.
- Your child will need to see you using the device and may need lots of repetition before they use it by themselves.
- Keep it fun and be patient. It's worth it!

