

Using a team approach to support behavior and communication challenges

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Disclosures

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While we may mention or show products from specific AAC companies, these principles can be applied to ANY unaided or aided AAC system.





Training Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe components of an ECHO approach that contribute to professional development across disciplines.
- Demonstrate how an ECHO works.
- Summarize the benefits of an ECHO in promoting interprofessional collaboration.





What is ECHO?

Project ECHO developed in U of New Mexico and translated to education settings by U of Wyoming ECHO stands for Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes Uses a hub of experts and spokes of interested professionals and students

- 1) Technology to leverage scare resources: Zoom and Recorded Sessions
- 2) Didactic training on core professional development topics
- 3) Case presentations (FERPA/HIPAA compliance) and EBP suggestions
- 4) Outcome measurements (Quick session eval, End of series learning eval)





Why UK ECHO in AAC

Too many children are still not receiving AAC services. UK ECHO in AAC can:

- Provide AAC knowledge and skills to school professionals.
- Provide evidence-based suggestions to use with children who need AAC.
- Build a community of practice for professionals working with AAC users.

Individual professionals are no longer alone. Interprofessional teams can learn together with other teams.





What the Literature Tells Us...

Four Multi-State Studies Have Been Conducted

- Towles-Reeves et al., 2009
- Cameto et al., 2010
- Kearns et al., 2011
- Towles-Reeves et al., 2012
- Unpublished data 2021
- Alternate Assessment Participants
 - Grades 3- 8grade and 1 year at high school
 - Represent ~ 1% of the school population



Data for 44,000 Students ~ Across 18 States

Of those who did not use symbolic communication,



SO, LESS THAN HALF OF THE STUDENTS WHO NEEDED AAC ACTUALLY HAD AAC IN PLACE



How does our UK ECHO in AAC work?

Join via Zoom for the hour-long session.

- Participate in a 20-minute didactic training with up to 10 minutes for Q&As
- Participate in a 30-minute de-identified case of a child needing/using AAC.
 - Ask clarifying questions, provide evidence-based suggestions





How does our UK ECHO in AAC work?

After the ECHO session,

- > Participants receive an email with 5-minute session survey.
- Once submitted, participants will be emailed link to a Certificate of Attendance and handouts.
- Evidence-based suggestions will be emailed to case presenter and attendees.
- Didactic presentation will be posted for later viewing by everyone.







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Mock ECHO Session

Agenda

- Didactic 20 Minutes
- Case 10 Minutes
- Questions 10 Minutes
- Brainstorming ideas 15 Minutes
- Wrap up 5 Minutes

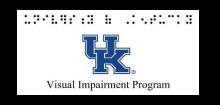




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Didactic Presentations vary each week









Didactic Presentation Topics

Past Didactic Presentations

- Introduction to Echo and Feature Matching
- Considerations for Hearing
- Considerations for Vision
- Considerations for Gross Motor
- Considerations for Fine Motor
- SETT Framework & CATS/KATS Network
- Building a Communication Dictionary
- Enhancing AAC Partner Skills
- Understanding Auditory Processing and AAC Use
- Considering Sensory Processing that Supports AAC Use



- Using Touch/Haptic Communication Signals for Individuals with Dual Sensory Loss
- Call to Action for Supporting Communication in Transition
- Peers as Communication Partners
- Social Network Tool
- AAC Access Challenges for Adolescents
- Supported Decision Making for Adolescent Users
- Preparing for Post Transition
 Challenges for Adult AAC Users

Fall '22 Presentation Topics

- It Takes a Team
- AAC Myth Busters
- Using Visual Scene Displays
- Assistive Technology in the Classroom to Support Hearing
- Beyond Requesting
- Sensory and AAC Access





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Didactic Presentation Example

Enhancing AAC Partner Skills









Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- explain why communication partners are important
- describe strategies use by good communication partners







Communication Partner

All the important people who talk and interact with people who use AAC





IT TAKES TWO!

Anyone can be a communication partner. We can all have a role in supporting AAC. This is an important job.





Communication Partners



Provide wait time

Attribute meaning

Model

Use strategies to respond to communication

Provide prompts or cues





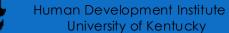


What Partners Can Do Wrong

Dominate	dominate the interaction – take most of the turns – provide few opportunities to initiate or respond	
Ask	ask mostly Yes/No questions	
Interrupt	frequent interruptions	
Focus on Technology	focus on technology, not on the message	
Don't confirm	don't confirm messages	







WHAT MAKES A GOOD COMMUNICATION PARTNER?

PRESUMING COMPETENCE	PATIENCE
FLEXIBILITY	
PERSISTENCE	
CONSISTENCY	RESPECTFUL
ENGAGING/INTERACTING	

https://www.assistiveware.com/learnaac/build-communication-partner-skills





Building Your Skills as a Communication Partner: 6 Strategies You Can Use



1. Model – Use AAC to Teach AAC



Point	Point to words on AAC display as you speak – key words	
Family, Peers	Involve friends, family, classmates	
↓		
Device or Paper	Model on device or paper version	
↓		
All Day	Model across contexts and environments – throughout the day	
Many Purposes	Model a wide range of messages (purposes)	
Slow Pace	Slow your pace	
Repeat	Repeat, repeat, repeat!	
Response NOT Required	Don't require response or imitation	
Simplify	Simplify your language	

2. Use Comments not Questions



Questions

Puts student in passive role Teach responding, not initiating Feels like testing not teaching



Comments

Comment on what seeing, doing, thinking Describe things







3. Pause and Wait



Allow time for student to understand and create message



Wait at least 5 – 10 seconds for message before talking – may need more (learn what your student needs)



Wait expectantly

Insert frequent pauses to allow student comment/response



Don't be in a hurry to prompt or help



Expectant Pause

An Expectant Pause is very powerful. Wait 5 - 10 seconds for the communicator to process what you said. Look at them like you cannot wait to hear what they have to say. An expectant pause gives us a chance to presume competence.



4. Provide Prompts

Helpful Prompts

- Verbal
- Gestural

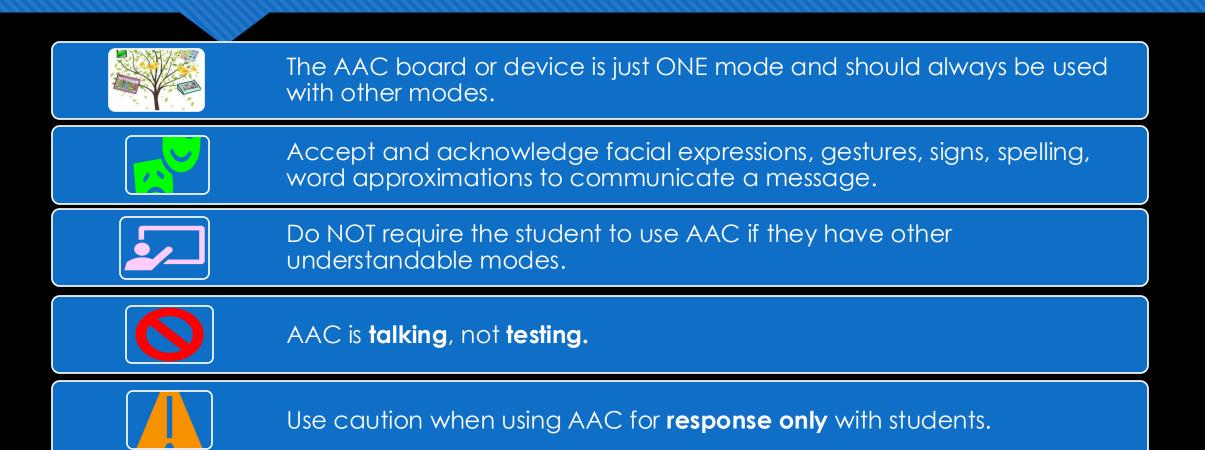
Less Helpful Prompts

- Physical use hand-under-hand if needed
 - Modeling is more effective than physical prompting
 - Does not support safe practices for protecting vulnerability

Fade prompts – avoid too many



5. Accept All Forms of Communication







6. Respond Consistently

Key Strategies
Acknowledge
Attribute Meaning
Expand
Show a different way
Honor (if possible)



Take Home Messages

Respond to all communication attempts Create a positive communication environment

Model, model, model

Use AAC to talk WITH the child

References/Resources

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Stewart, M. [Megan]. (2020). Prompt Hierarchy – A tool for your AAC Toolbox. Senseable Literacy Blog. https://senseableliteracy.com/prompt-hierarchy/



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ECHO in AAC

Case Presentation Example









ECHO ID # 020722

Description of Individual

Age: 11 Grade Level or Setting: Middle School Daily Environment, Routines, and Activities: Home/Self-contained Classroom







Primary Area of Concern: Increase Communication Opportunities/ Reduce Challenging Behavior What would you like to see this individual do that they are not able to do regarding communication?

Use low and/or high tech AAC device to increase successful communication and reduce self-injurious, and other challenging behavior.





Previous Strategies

What communication strategies, interventions, or other actions have been tried, and how successful have they been?

- Uses about 16 single signs (e.g., all done, throw away, put away). Occasionally uses two signs together (e.g., want more)
- Can match the sign with the picture
- Writes letters, identifies letters doesn't yet spell words.
- Uses token board/stars and place it on the Velcro. Needs to earn at least 3 tokens for work to get a treat and can earn up to five tokens.
- Uses tactile schedule.
- Uses "I want _____" strip with fill in pictures.
- Social Stories with pictures on a road map of stops along the way when going somewhere.
- Can use Youtube on tablet device, MineCraft,



Preferences

- Food Candy, cheese, slim jim, pepperoni, fruit/ blueberries, raspberries.
- Smelling things scents,
- Cutting, tearing, managing slime, stickers, fidget toy, Legos (Can follow the visual instructions to build Legos.)
- Drawing pictures and drawing apps. Likes to look for perfection on visual items
- Youtube videos –can find and search the categories and find favorites
- Going to the gym, walking, swinging in a hammock
- Happy, positive encouraging people.



- Boring Activities
- Preferred activities stopped or removed



Likes

Impacting Factors

Medical	Motor	Vision	Hearing
Medications Anxiety SIB – due to dental problem, solution in the works	Gross Motor: Ambulatory Fine motor – Skilled at using fine motor skills – writes letters, likes to draw with detail.	Ocular vision corrected. Doesn't wear glasses to prevent breaking until unbreakable ones can be secured. Unsure of impact regarding not wearing glasses. No indication of CVI.	Wears hearing aids – mild/moderate loss. Without aides hears high pitch sounds. Appears to have more difficulty hearing in noisy environment. FM System not currently used. Not been referred to Deafblind Project.







Your Turn

Sensory Motor

- When student does go to gym and walk, what is the level of physical activity? E.g., how much does heart rate increase? What is student like after physical activity?
 - Student walks at a good pace and gets heart rate up usually walks around one mile around gym. It calms student down and is enjoyable.
- Is there a schedule for movement breaks?
 - Usually goes around 1:30 p.m. because that's when student gets "antsy."
- Regarding why student is doing self-injury, has student had a medical exam?
 - Student hitting themselves on right side cheek/jaw.
 - Have spoken to student's mom about it. Student has an appt with a dentist or oral surgeon.

Behavior

- Have you considered Functional Communication Training or conducted a Functional Behavior Assessment?
 - Keeping record of behaviors and have done a Behavior Intervention Plan, but it has been difficult to determine antecedents. Often there is no obvious/visible trigger for behaviors.



Communication Modes/Intents

- What AAC systems have you tried?
 - Low tech, including picture schedule, first-then board, token board, "I want" strip board, "I feel" board
 - No high tech trialed so far. Concern about student being overwhelmed, or student may throw/break device.
- Does the student have an "I need a break" card?
 - Yes, at school; not at home.
 - Does not consistently identify between two cards (but seems to be because they are bored/unengaged rather than not being able to do the task). Trialed tactile symbols but didn't get to use very long before student went on homebound.
- Does student have a way (icon or card) to indicate pain?
 - Feeling strip "I feel _____" sick and hurt are two of the choices.



<u>Hearing</u>

- Do you have an audiogram of student's hearing profile?
 - Student was previously enrolled in KY School for the Deaf and had audiological evaluations conducted there.
 - Student currently goes to Lexington Speech and Hearing Center. Mom has a recent audiology report/graph and student is also being scheduled for another hearing evaluation soon.
- Has it been verified that student hears high pitches but not low pitches? (Because typically mild to moderate hearing loss results in being able to hear low pitches better than high pitches.)
 - Unsure but new hearing evaluation may give insights.

Preferences

- Does student enjoy being with peers?
 - In classroom with up to 5 classmates (peers), but do not invite peers from outside that room. Student typically works and plays alone. There is one classmate the student gets along with – sometimes they walk in the gym together.
 - Likes being part of the group in gym class but doesn't initiate interactions.
 - Must be cautious due to physical aggression.







Your Turn

Sensory Motor and Behavior

- To address throwing devices, you might try an industrial strength Velcro to hold down objects, computers, AAC devices/boards. This can allow a short time where you can model the student requesting a break or being finished before any throwing has occurred. This may help break the cycle of throwing behavior, allowing the student to stop an undesired activity.
 - The strongest "velcro" may be 3M Dual Lock <u>https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/dual-lock-reclosable-fasteners-us</u>
 - Velcro Alfa Lok. Industrial strength velcro has different strengths <u>https://www.velcro.com/blog/2020/08/which-velcro-brand-fastener-is-the-strongest/</u>
- Add movement breaks dispersed throughout the day put in student's visual schedule. This is
 proactive to reduce frustrations rather than reacting after negative behavior occurs. Be sure not to
 inadvertently encourage behaviors by waiting till student is displaying problem behavior before they
 get a break.
- Try other gross motor activities in addition to walking: e.g., adaptive tricycle, mini trampoline, throwing or kicking ball, tossing balls into buckets, keeping a beachball in the air, obstacle course
 - Obstacle course (a.k.a. Sensory Path) made from cutouts/decals/tape on floor. Examples:
 - Here is an article with some ideas on how to design a sensory path: <u>https://www.weareteachers.com/sensory-path/</u>



Sensory Motor and Behavior

- Encourage peers to use the sensory path as well. Another idea might be to have the student and peers design the sensory path, periodically revising it. Maybe put it in the hallway so more peers would have access.
- Activities like this provide excellent, natural opportunity for commenting e.g., "That was hard," "Yes, we did it!" Listen to what peers are commenting and create commenting fringe. Model commenting and teach peers to comment using AAC too.
- Use student's preferences.
 - Student prefers strong flavors, so you can use oral motor skills in therapy and learning, e.g., alerting or calming to bring student to a regulated state in order to participate in activities. (Tip: put pepperoni in microwave and it gets crispy.)
 - Work with the Occupational Therapist to build in strategic oral motor activities. Meet student where they are, incorporating sensory preferences.
 - Scents figure out scents that are calming and incorporate those e.g., lightly scented objects.
 - Using essential oil for "slime" engages hands and student enjoys certain scents.
 - Use computer for typing/writing functional communication e.g., note to mom instead of copying letters by hand, to avoid frustration/boredom/ perfectionism when writing.

<u>Hearing</u>

- If hearing aids are relatively new, they should have Bluetooth technology. That means you can use
 a remote microphone that you wear and can stream to the student's hearing aid. Remote mics are
 not as expensive as FM systems but do not transmit as far as FM systems.
 - Demonstration of how FM units work with hearing aids <u>https://youtu.be/1l37lzLlgQU</u>
- Talk to audiologist to discuss ways to keep hearing aid on. A possible idea attach hearing aid to glasses. The Moderate hearing loss means that sounds have to be 10,000 to 100,000 times louder to hear when compared to peers with "normal" hearing.
- Minimize background noise.
- Check Hearing Aids daily

http://www.infanthearing.org/videos/featured/docs/Hearing%20Aid%20Listening%20Check.pdf http://www.infanthearing.org/videos/featured/hearing_aid_listening_check.php

- To better understand what the student hears with hearing aids (HA) on and off, check out these links:
 - o https://www.jtc.org/audiogram-of-familiar-sounds/
 - what hearing loss sounds like: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wn3PnBWRC5c</u>
 - what hearing aids sound like: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Va1wrnsMve0</u>
- Register with the KY Deaf Blind Project

Communication

- Identify when/where communication and AAC targets are used throughout the day. This easily
 identified from the information recorded in your SETT framework. Develop a "classroom matrix" by
 listing activities down the left side of a simple chart and indicating AAC and communication targets
 that should be focused on in each activity/setting.
- This "classroom matrix" can also be used to create the student's schedule to help anticipate what comes next and thus reduce problems with transitions and unexpected changes during the day. This is like the "road map" approach you have described and noted to be useful for the student in transitions and new settings.
- Conduct a functional analysis to help dial in on the function of the challenging behavior
 - https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/whatworks/WhatWorksBrief_11.pdf
 - Western KY University is getting ready to start a research study on training teachers and SLPs on Functional Communication procedures and this student may really benefit.
- Strategies for taking data
 - Utilize the function of communication assessment and
 - Use a data matrix to collect data
 - Use a data sheet that includes information on modeling words and student use of words see sample data sheet at the end of this report.

Communication

- Develop a Communication Dictionary with columns for:
 - If student does this behavior, it communicates this message.
 - This is how communication partners should respond.
 - This is the picture/tactile symbol/ we are pairing with this behavior/message.
 - Communication Dictionary ECHO presentation: <u>https://youtu.be/5qrjpTzRBcM</u>
- Encourage the student to use AAC to comment on activities. This gives the student a voice and an
 option to communicate but reduces the expectation or demand to respond which often causes AAC
 rejection.
- Get student started with an AAC iPad or talking switches with things student might want to talk about, without expectation of use right away Model how to use the switches/device during favorite activities, such as drawing, crafts, Minecraft etc. Model with whatever system you decide to use for communication throughout the day for interactions with the student. Aided language modeling reduces the demand for the student to use the system but gives constant teaching opportunities for the adults to show the student how to use the communication system.
 - Here are some resources on aided language modeling
 - One page description
 - TAALC Communication Strategy 2 Aided Language Modeling
 - Two video examples:

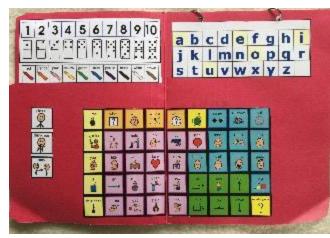
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIFNMky22-U

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUY6oQoSTXw

During this time: Describe the environment: What just happened? What was the trigger?	And student does this: Describe the behavior: What do others notice? What can be seen, heard, and felt by others?	We think it means: Interpret the communicative intent of the behavior: What emotions and feelings are exhibited? What's going on?	And everyone should respond: Describe what people should do in response to the student's communicative behavior or Not do	Insert Link to a videoclip of this communication exchange
Who, What, When	How – Communication Form	Result – partner interpretation	Partner Strategy and AAC Options	Videoclip

Communication

- Give student reason to make choices and use functional communication rather than just identify match items or identifying words/symbols. The student may be bored with simple identification of pictures or letters. Meaningful, functional use of print, letters, words and symbols will help maintain participation.
- Utilize peers when possible. Consider starting with a google meets group (peer network) while student is receiving homebound instruction. Then when student returns to school, they will have an established relationship with peers from which to start.
- Use interest in Legos to encourage communication with other students who also like Legos. Peers can work in proximity even if they are working separately. Great opportunity to communicate and model commenting. This is an activity that can be done with peers virtually also, so the student and peers are working in a parallel way and there is enormous opportunity for comments, questions, describing what they are doing, etc.
 - The TAALC Core folder would be a good resource for this as it includes core words, colors and sizes for talking about the blocks used or needed when building. Additional fringe for commenting may be needed.



 Consult with art teacher about art activities to do with peers. This can provide many opportunities to comment: "wow," "that's cool," "that paint stinks." Students can be kept physically distanced as needed and still work in proximity of each other and "chat".



Literacy – Ideas for communication and academic activities

- Some things to consider:
 - a) writing a book weekly about one of the student's favorite activities or interests (Legos, Minecraft, drawing, etc.) Show the student representations of possible topics to write about from which they can choose. Reinforce letter identification this way and show how letters sound and form words. You might want to use a computer or iPad to "write" the text, so the student does not have to worry if they printed the letter correctly. Next, have them draw pictures to accompany the text (using preferred art apps). Then the student can share the book with peers, at home etc. This can be done virtually as well when learning from home.
 - B) be sure to add the printed work with any pictures on their schedule boards, choice boards or AAC device or board so that the student is exposed to sight reading and literacy.
 - Use social stories to help with transitions and other activities which might trigger behavior. Let the student help compose these. Reinforce use of print.
 - Other "writing" activities could be notes home to Mom, emails to friends, "helping" the teacher composes notes (even just finding a few of the letters needed in the note) to other teachers ,etc.
 - Literacy resources for dual sensory impairments
 - Paths to Literacy Communication for Students who are Deaf-Blind

https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/resources/supporting-communication-learners-whoare-deaf-blind-andor-have-multiple-disabilities

https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/writing-students-multiple-disabilities-ordeafblindness

This is How We Do It Series
 Core and Literacy
 Tactile Symbols and Literacy
 Core and Games with Peers

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qgoq6w9PFQXofCFP73Z-7QaXGOeZ8YTX?usp=sharing



Additional Resources Provided

Generic Resources

AAC

- KY Assistive Technology Network https://www.katsnet.org/
 - Pegboard Book <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMktXoZbRfw</u>
- Hearing
 - Checking Hearing Aids

http://www.infanthearing.org/videos/featured/docs/Hearing%20Aid%20Listening%20Che ck.pdf

http://www.infanthearing.org/videos/featured/hearing_aid_listening_check.php

- Demonstration of how FM units work with hearing aids https://youtu.be/1137lzLlgQU
- You can see what you SHOULD expect the student to hear with hearing aids (HA) on and off. <u>https://www.jtc.org/audiogram-of-familiar-sounds/</u>
 - what hearing loss sounds like https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wn3PnBWRC5c
 - what hearing aids sound like <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Va1wrnsMve0</u>



• Vision

- American Printing House for the Blind <u>https://www.aph.org/</u>
- Tactile Connections <u>https://www.aph.org/product/tactile-connections-kit-symbols-for-communication/</u>
- Object Symbols & Tactile Symbols <u>https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/object-symbols</u>
 <u>tactile-symbols</u>
- Communication for Students who are Deaf-Blind <u>https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/resources/supporting-communication-learners-who-are-deaf-blind-andor-have-multiple-disabilities</u>
- Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA): Deaf-Blind Modules (Specifically the Communication and Promoting Learning Modules) <u>https://www.nationaldb.org/products/modules/ohoa/</u>
- Anticipation Calendars

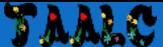
Book: Calendars for Students with Multiple Impairments Including Deafblindness http://www.tsbvi.edu/store/ecom/index.php?action=ecom.pdetails&mode=calendars

- CVI Resources <u>http://documents.nationaldb.org/products/TeamApproachtoCVI.pdf</u>
- KY DeafBlind Project https://education.uky.edu/kydbp/referral/



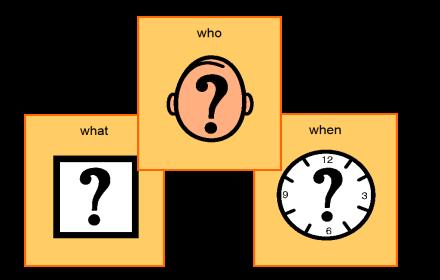
• Planning templates

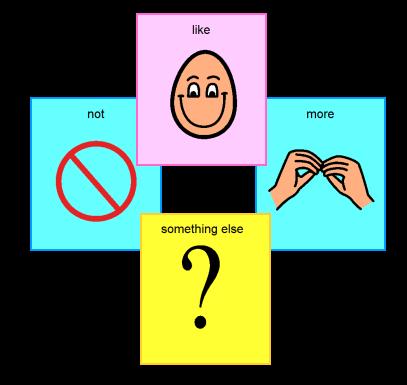
- o <u>Communication/Schedule Matrix</u>
- o <u>C-SETT Framework</u>
- Peer supports
 - Partner the student with peers for parts of the day when the student is in settings with peers.
 - Peer Support arrangements resources <u>www.kypeersupport.org</u>
 - Make sure that the student has the words needed to request, comment, and share information (e.g., fringe vocabulary, quickfires). OR that peers know what the student's non-verbal cues and behaviors mean so that they can better respond.
 - Teach the peers to interpret, acknowledge and expand the student's communication (e.g., what certain modes mean).
- TAALC Communication Papers (One-to-two-page descriptions with video examples) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SUopQUDW4tkPU6xnbJ47kp014EJz8JF4?usp=sharing
 - o Communication Strategies
 - Partner assisted scanning <a>• Reflect interpret expand
 Use core words
 - Aided language modeling
 Peer mediated strategies
 Preferences
 - \circ $\;$ This is How We Do It Series
 - Core and Literacy
 Tactile Symbols and Literacy
 Core and Games with Peers
- **TAALC Team Coaching** If interested in coaching support from the TAALC staff on working with your team to problem solve communication and AAC, complete the online request documents: <u>https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ePpkbRyjNxSKZTM</u>



Questions?

Comments!







Human Development Institute University of Kentucky

Upcoming TAALC Activities

Fall 2023 ECHO in AAC - Behavior IS Communication Time, Dates, Topics

4:00 - 5:00 Eastern/3:00-4:00 Central

Monday, September 18 – Integrated Team Communication in Schools
Monday, October 2 – Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) for Teams
Monday, October 16 – Identifying Behavior that may Indicate a Vision or Hearing Loss
Monday, October 30 – Replacing Behavior with Communication: Communication Partner Tips
Monday, November 13 – Sensory Regulation Part 1: Using Aerobic Exercise with AAC users
Monday, November 27 – Sensory Regulation Part 2: Supporting Communication and Managing Behavior

To Register, click https://forms.gle/8YmiabN316cGkbL99 or scan

How to Join - Join sessions online via Zoom. A link to join any ECHO session will be sent upon registration. Connect through your desktop, laptop, tablet, or phone





Upcoming TAALC Activities

ECHO Case Presentation Recruitment

The TAALC project actively recruits teams who have a student for whom they struggle with next steps in communication and would like ideas and strategies they can implement moving forward. Case presenters may earn a stipend of \$100.00.

If you would like to present a case during one of the ECHO in AAC sessions, scan this code and complete a short form in qualtrics

[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dbtAJYvWcS4sZDg]

All cases are de-identified for the presentation. Each presenting team receives an extensive report following the ECHO session, documenting the clarifying questions, suggestions, links and recommended resources.

Questions or comments, email us at taalc@uky.edu

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Human Development Institute University of Kentucky Interested? SCAN here





Thank You!

Questions/Requests for Intervention email:

taalc@uky.edu