PARTNER TEACHING STRATEGIES: ENGINEERING THE ENVIRONMENT
~examples of strategies to prepare the environment for AAC success~

The concept of Engineering the Environment comes from the work of Carol Goossens’, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Sharon Sapp Crain, M.S., CCC-SLP and Pamela S. Elder, M.A., CCC-SLP. The authors recommend that attention be directed to the environment in which AAC users live to facilitate communication competency. According to Elder & Goossens’ (1994), “These environments should be engineered to:

- Expect augmented speakers to communicate,
- Provide frequent opportunities to communicate,
- Facilitate interactive communication, and
- Respond to communication attempts by augmented speakers.”

The authors provide a systematic approach to getting students to communicate in meaningful environments.

- Identify and prioritize communication activities throughout the day.
- Develop message sets for each activity.
- Place communication boards/displays in the environment where they will be used and are appropriate for the AAC user.
- Provide visual supports in the environment where communication will occur for individuals who use AAC devices.

Provide opportunities for a variety of communicative functions in multiple contexts, e.g., request actions, protest, solicit attention, greet, tell information, ask questions, and comment.

---


Additional references at http://rastresources.com