

An Implementation Tool Kit for AAC: Achieving Authentic Communication



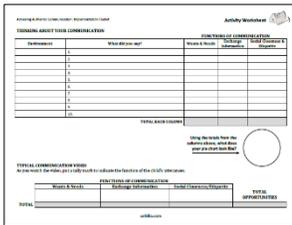
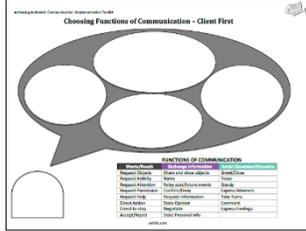
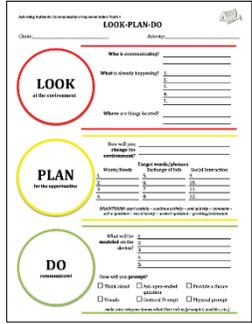
Presented by: Stephanie Reed, B.A. COMD, ATACP stephanie@saltillo.com

Agenda

- Communication
 - Authentic Communication
 - Functions of Communication
 - Communication Partners
 - Environments
- Creating Communication Opportunities
- Other Tips and Tools

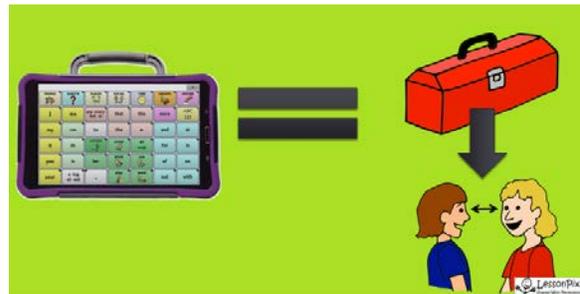
Authentic
Communication
"Real or Genuine"

Handouts- Your "Toolbox"

<p>1. Activity Worksheet</p> 	<p>2. Choosing Functions of Communication</p> 	<p>3. Choosing Vocab Activity First</p> 	<p>4. Look Plan Do</p> 
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Authentic Communication

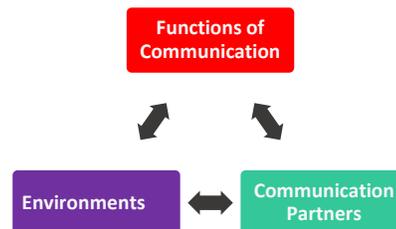
- Communication is about the people.
- It is NOT about the technology.
- Technology is the tool.
- People and interactions need to be our focus.



What is Communication?

Two way process

- Functions- purpose of communicating.
- Environment- how and where we communicate.
- Communication Partners- anyone with whom a person using AAC may interact.



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Functions of Communication

Reason we communicate



- * Build relationships
- * Learn
- * Share
- * Manage
- * Participate

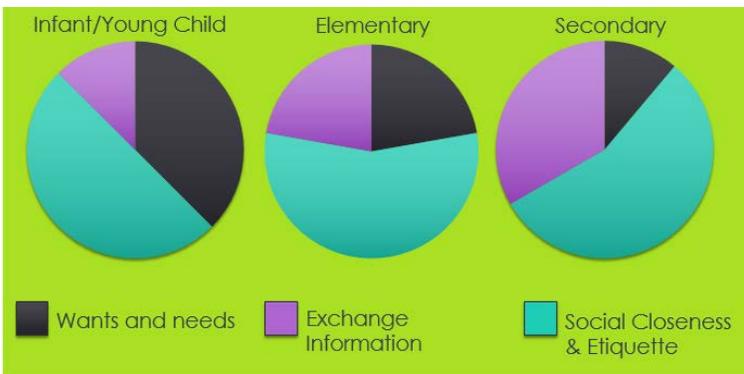
Functions of Communication

Wants/Needs	Exchange Information	Social Closeness/ Etiquette
Request Objects	Share and Show Objects	Greet/ Close
Request Activity	Name	Tease
Request Attention	Relay Past/ Future Events	Gossip
Request Permission	Confirm/ Deny	Express Manners
Request Help	Request Information	Take Turns
Direct Action	State Opinion	Comment
Direct to Stop	Negotiate	Express Feelings
Accept/ Reject	State Personal Info	



ToolBoxActivity Worksheet****

Functions of Communication Over Time



Cumley (2001), Light (1988, 1997, 2005)

Notes



ToolBox Choosing Functions of Communication****

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Environments

How and Where

- **WHO** is communicating?
- **WHAT** is happening?
 - What is heard
 - What is seen
 - What is felt
- **WHERE** are things located?
 - The device
 - The AAC user
 - The communication partner(s)
 - The objects



What can we adjust?

Notes:

Communication Partners

Who is interacting?

- 8 of 10 most frequently reported reasons for device abandonment were related to partner training and support issues. (Johnson, Inglebret, Jones & Ray, 2006)
- The role of communication partners is crucial for achieving positive outcomes for people who use AAC. (Bech, Bain & Vass, 2008)

Communication Partner Roles:

- Assist in operational components
- Advocate
- Establish Goals
- Identify Barriers
- Monitor Progress
- Communicate/Interact
- Model – using same modality
 - Know the vocabulary organization
- Create Opportunities

Excellent Resources (there are many, many more!)



<https://saltillo.com/implementation>



<http://practicalaac.org/>



<https://www.pinterest.com/>

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Modeling Notes:

Speak the same language

What do I model?



What can I use to model?

**Creating Communication Opportunities -
AUTHENTIC**
Motivating-Meaningful-Age Appropriate

Communication partners arrange the environment to help communication happen

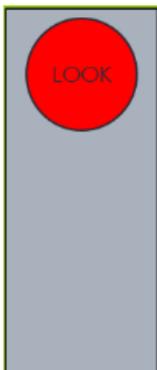


ToolBox** Look Plan Do**

Why create opportunities?

- AAC users often have fewer opportunities.
- More likely to communicate if they have a reason and opportunity
- Typical opportunities have focused on requesting, labeling- **WE CAN CHANGE THIS by creating opportunities.**
- Create opportunities through planning

The form is titled 'CREATING COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES' and includes a 'Client' field and an 'Activity' field. It is divided into three main sections: **LOOK at the environment**, **PLAN for the opportunities**, and **DO communicate with!**. Each section contains a series of questions and checkboxes for planning communication opportunities.



Look at the environment

***WHO** is communicating?

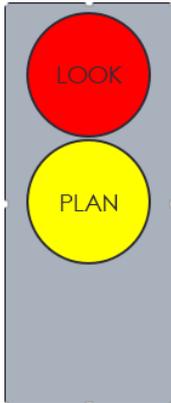
***WHAT** is already happening? (step by step)

1. Teacher announces snack.
2. Students wash hands.
3. Students sit down.

***WHERE** are things located?

- ✓ Device
- ✓ Communication Partner
- ✓ Materials/items client needs/wants

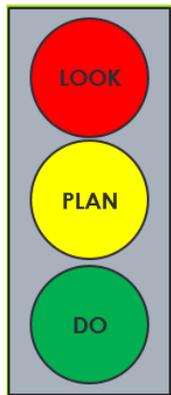
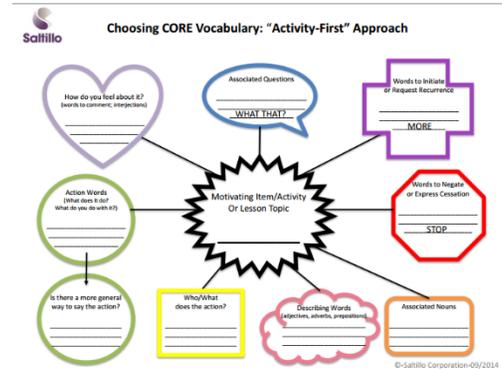
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- Plan** for opportunities by:
- *Modifying the environment.
 - *Move things out of the way
 - *Put materials in an opaque bag
 - *Have things up on a shelf
 - *Only give a small amount
 - *Set it up so client needs help
 - *Involve peers
 - ***WAIT** and look expectantly



ToolBox Choosing CORE Vocabulary****
Try this to help plan your activity



- DO:** help client communicate
- *Know the vocabulary
 - *Model the vocabulary
 - *Provide feedback

Other Tools and Tips

Chat Editor- Button Capture

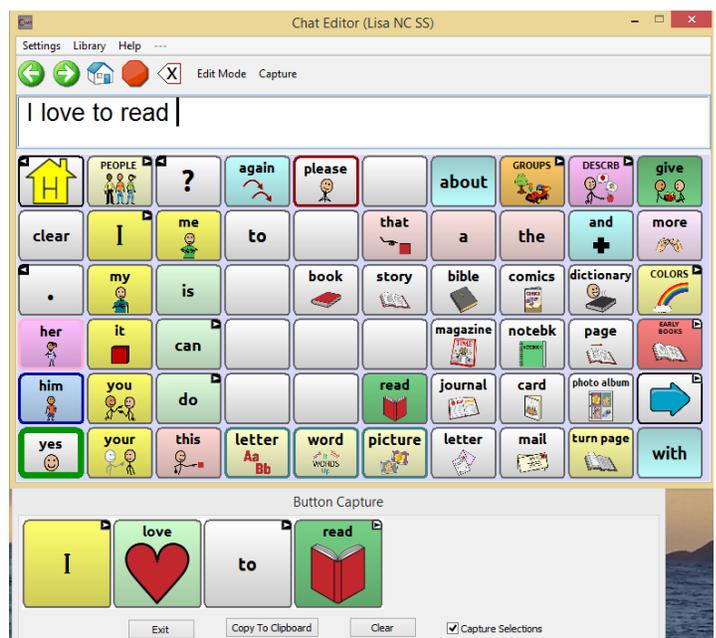
Free download <https://saltillo.com/products#chat-editor>

Great for creating many types of supports

- *Add button sequences to stories
- *Visual supports in the room

Two webinars about Chat Editor

<https://saltillo.com/webinars>



<https://saltillo.com/>

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Questions/Discussion/Reflections

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