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Agenda

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

Handouts- Your “Toolbox”

|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|

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.
Functions of Communication

- Build relationships
- Learn
- Share
- Manage
- Participate

Functions of Communication

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

ToolBox** Activity Worksheet**

Functions of Communication Over Time

ToolBox** Choosing Functions of Communication**

https://saltillo.com/
An Implementation Tool Kit for AAC: Achieving Authentic Communication

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](https://saltillo.com/implementation)
- [http://praacticalaac.org/](http://praacticalaac.org/)
- [https://www.pinterest.com/](https://www.pinterest.com/)
Modeling Notes:
Speak the same language

What do I model?

What can I use to model?

Creating Communication Opportunities -
AUTHENTIC
Motivating-Meaningful-Age Appropriate

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

ToolBox** Look Plan Do**

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

https://saltillo.com/
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/
References

- Korsten, J. (2011, April 4). Message posted to QIAT Listserv