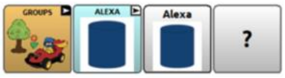
Alexa at Home:
How to interact with Alexa using your PRC-Saltillo "AAC Voice".

Jennifer Edge-Savage, MS, EdS, OTR/L
Saltillo Assistive Technology Consultant

We will begin at the top of the hour



Your Presenter

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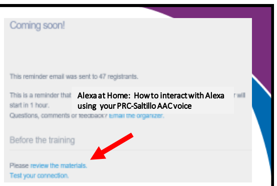
Financial Disclosure: I am an Employee-Owner of PRC-Saltillo

Housekeeping



Coming soon!

This reminder email was sent to 47 registrants.

This is a reminder that Alexa at Home: How to interact with Alexa using your PRC-Saltillo AAC voice will start in 1 hour.
Questions, comments or feedback? Email the organizer.

Before the training

Please review the materials.
Test your connection.

- Having trouble hearing or connecting to this class? Please contact LogMeIn: 1-888-259-8414
- Handouts are available in the materials link of the registration confirmation email
- Feedback survey delivered at the end of class
- Proof of attendance email delivered one hour after completion of this class

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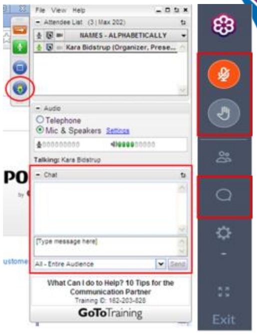
Ask a question…

- Use the chat window


File View Help
Attendee List (3 | Max 202)
NAMES - ALPHABETICALLY
Kara Bidstrup (Organizer, Prese…
Audio
○ Telephone
● Mic & Speakers Settings
Talking: Kara Bidstrup
Chat
[Type message here]
All - Entire Audience
Send
What Can I do to Help? 10 Tips for the Communication Partner
Training ID: 162-203-828
GoToTraining
Exit

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In this 30 minute session you will learn motivating ways to use your PRC-Saltillo speech generating device to engage with Alexa for:

- Fun
- Independence
- Calming activities
- Academics

EMPOWERING THROUGH COMMUNICATION.

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Can Alexa understand AAC?

Alexa is Voice user Interface responding to voice. *Any Voice.*

AAC uses Text to Speech Voices.
Alexa IS a text to speech voice.

No need for “Pairing” or “Setup” – just Talk!

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Why would an AAC user want to use Alexa?

For the same reasons YOU do, and MORE!

- **Independence**
  - **Shopping (turn that off in your app!)**
  - **Read a Kindle/Audible Book**
  - **Play Music**
  - **Environmental Control**
  - **Reminders**
  - **Watch TV**
  - **Phone Calls**
  - **General Questions of Interest**
  - **Play games**
  - **Ask for jokes**
  - **Many more...**

Alexa: The Basics

1. Connect to your existing Amazon account OR create an Amazon Account
2. Choose your DEVICE
   - Echo
   - **Echo Dot**
   - Echo Studio
   - Show
   - Spot
   - Firestick
   - Kindle Fire
   - And more and more choices...
3. **Download Free Alexa App on Smart phone with iOS 11.0 or higher, Android 5.1 or higher, or Fire OS 5.3. 3 or higher.**
4. Use app for all your settings
5. Connect to internet **Wi-Fi**
6. Use wake word (Alexa, Amazon, Computer) and speak requests

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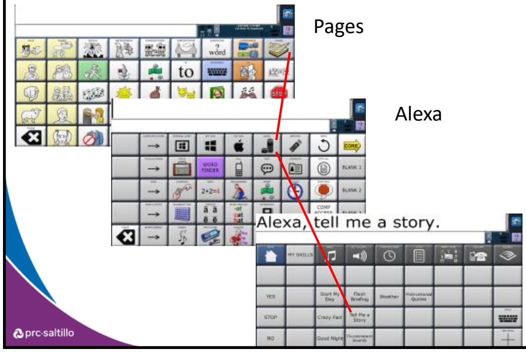
Alexa responds to AAC devices

- Alexa responds to AAC devices
- Create a button that says **"Alexa"**
  - (Saltillo's TouchChat is pictured)
- Create buttons for your Alexa Commands
- Many AAC apps and devices already have Alexa pages built in that can be easily customized.
- OR – just use your words to control Alexa – and hit the speak display bar to repeat

Alexa on a PRC Accent Device

(ex. Unity 45 Sequenced Vocabulary)


to
word
WORD FINDER
BLANK 1
BLANK 2
MY SKILLS
YES
STOP
NO
Start My Day
Flash Briefing
Weather
Motivational Quotes
Crazy Fact
Tell Me a Story
Good Night
Thunderstorm Sounds

Alexa, tell me a story.

Pages

Alexa

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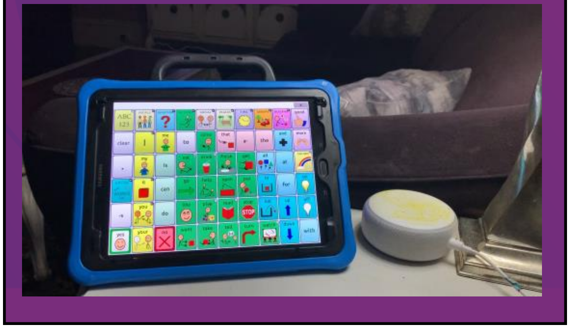
Alexa in Action



Alexa to support academics

Alexa,

- How do I spell…?
- Alexa, Who…
- Alexa, What…
- Alexa, Where…
- Math Skills
- Science Skills
- Audio Flash cards

Alexa: Skills, Skills, Skills

Mac/Windows ->Applications
iPhone -> Apps
Chrome -> Extensions
Alexa -> SKILLS

Native Alexa Skills are **BUILT IN** and you can use right away

- News
- Weather
- Timers
- General Questions
- Jokes
- Definitions/Spelling
- Make Calls
- And many more

https://www.cnet.com/how-to/every-alexa-command-you-can-give-your-amazon-echo-smart-speaker

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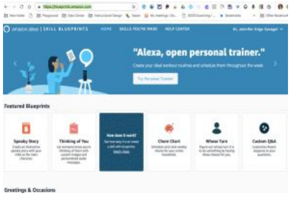
Alexa: Enable more Skills

- **Alexa Skills are add on- voice apps you can *enable* within your Alexa app or at www.amazon.com**
- ***Categories:***
  - Health and Wellness
  - Games
  - Education
  - Smart Home
  - Kids
  - Weather
  - Sports
  - Games
  - And many more
- OPEN - anyone can create a skill!
- **There are over 100,000 skills…Take a look!**
  - **www.amazon.com/alexaskills**

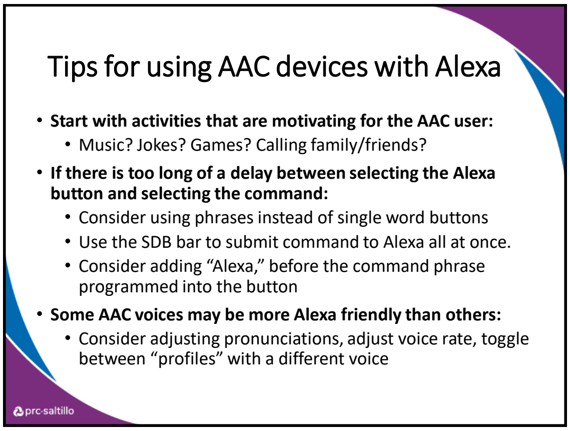
Make your own skills with Amazon Alexa Blueprints


amazon alexa | SKILL BLUEPRINTS
HOME
SKILLS YOU'VE MADE
HELP CENTER
Featured Blueprints
Spooky Story
Thinking of You
How does it work?
Chore Chart
Whose Turn
Custom Q&A
Greetings & Occasions

"Alexa, open personal trainer."

"Alexa, who is the most wonderful Mama in the world?"

https://blueprints.amazon.com/



Tips for using AAC devices with Alexa

- **Start with activities that are motivating for the AAC user:**
  - Music? Jokes? Games? Calling family/friends?
- **If there is too long of a delay between selecting the Alexa button and selecting the command:**
  - Consider using phrases instead of single word buttons
  - Use the SDB bar to submit command to Alexa all at once.
  - Consider adding “Alexa,” before the command phrase programmed into the button
- **Some AAC voices may be more Alexa friendly than others:**
  - Consider adjusting pronunciations, adjust voice rate, toggle between “profiles” with a different voice

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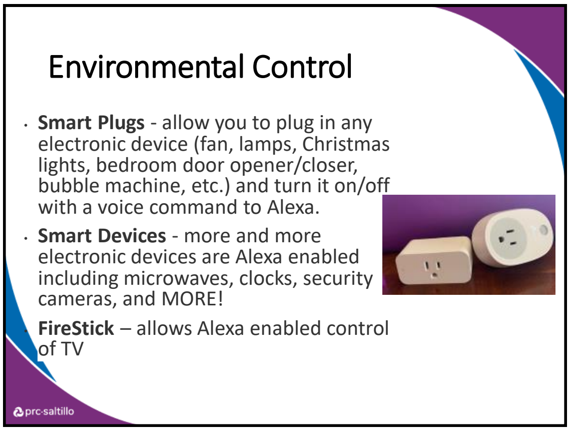

Environmental Control

- **Smart Plugs** - allow you to plug in any electronic device (fan, lamps, Christmas lights, bedroom door opener/closer, bubble machine, etc.) and turn it on/off with a voice command to Alexa.
- **Smart Devices** - more and more electronic devices are Alexa enabled including microwaves, clocks, security cameras, and MORE!
- **FireStick** – allows Alexa enabled control of TV

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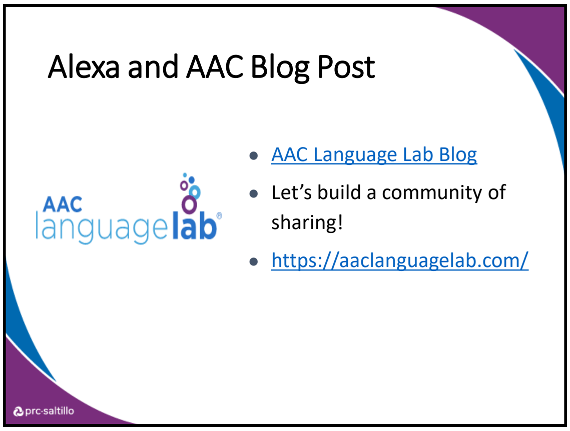

Alexa and AAC Blog Post

- AAC Language Lab Blog
- Let’s build a community of sharing!
- https://aaclanguagelab.com/

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More Resources

Chat Corner has numerous resources to help you teach language

The **Support and Education** tab has live and pre-recorded webinars for more information

www.saltillo.com

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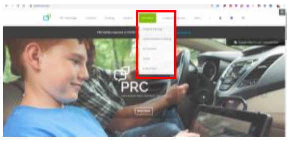
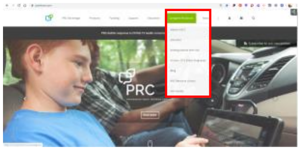
More Resources



The **Education** tab has live and on demand product and implementation training classes

The **Caregiver Resources** tab has information about



www.prentrom.com/education

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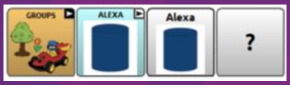
How will YOU use Alexa?



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Want to learn more about AAC?

exploreAAC
Get Started!
What To Learn
Learning Modules
Find Your Consultant
Get Started!

Explore Augmentative & Alternative Communication

Interacting with others when you can't speak can feel overwhelming. Get the information and hands-on experience you need to open up the world of communication with AAC.

www.exploreaac.com

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Thank you!

Jennifer.edge-savage@Saltillo.com

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