Authentic Communication
“Real or Genuine”

Handouts- Your “Toolbox”

1. Activity Worksheet
2. Choosing Functions of Communication
3. Choosing Vocab Activity First
4. Look Plan Do

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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An Implementation Tool Kit for AAC: Achieving Authentic Communication

**Functions of Communication**

- Build relationships
- Learn
- Share
- Manage
- Participate

<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>
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<tr>
<td>Request Permission</td>
<td>Confirm/ Deny</td>
<td>Express Manners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Request Help</td>
<td>Request Information</td>
<td>Take Turns</td>
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<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**

- **Infant/Young Child**
- **Elementary**
- **Secondary**

- **Wants and needs**
- **Exchange Information**
- **Social Closeness & Etiquette**


**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

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/)
Creating Communication Opportunities -
AUTHENTIC
Motivating-Meaningful-Age Appropriate

Communication partners arrange the environment to help communication happen

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

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](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/webinars)
Questions/Discussion/Reflections

References


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


- Light, J. (1989), "Toward a definition of communicative competence for individuals using augmentative and alternative communication systems." Augmentative and Alternative Communications 5 (2): 137-144


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