

AAC and Early Intervention

Getting Started

Early Intervention Steps with AAC

This handout is based off the work by Light & Drager (2019). Visit <http://aackids.psu.edu> for more information.

Step 1: Identify meaningful contexts for communication with your child

- *Is this activity motivating for my child?*
- *Do I have a way to interact socially with my child during the routine?*
- *Is what we're doing appropriate for their current level of understanding and interest?*

Context	
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Step 2: Provide effective way(s) for your child to communicate

- *How will my child respond?*
- *If using a high-tech SGD, do I need a low-tech backup for this activity?*

Communication Method	
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Step 3: Select appropriate vocabulary for your child

- *Which words are we targeting for my child to use?*
- *Are we using words that are motivating? Are enough words flexible for many situations?*
- *Do I know how to model these words?*

Target Words	
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Step 4: Set up the environment to support your child's communication

- *Are they in a position where they are stable and able to use the AAC?*
- *Can my child easily see and reach the AAC?*
- *Am I face to face with my child so they can see me and my face?*

Environment Setup	
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Step 5: Use appropriate interaction strategies to support communication

- *Am I modeling as much as I can? Can I model more?*
- *Do I wait to give my child time to respond? Do I need to count to 10 in my head?*
- *Do I respond to every communicative attempt? Do I recast on the device at times?*

Strategies	
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