

Starting Sooner: AAC Skills for Success in the Real World

Background: Changing our Mindset
❖ What skills are needed for students to be successful in the real world?
❖ We need to start practicing these skills sooner.
Critical Skills for Safety & Self-Advocacy
❖ I have a name <ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Using AAC to clearly state personal information➢ Full legal name, nickname, full birthdate➢ Practice daily
❖ I need my AAC device <ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ I use AAC to communicate➢ I need help, I need a break➢ Self-regulation: walk, sensory, music, disney, oral➢ Self-advocacy: time, visuals, quiet

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- ❖ I can say no
 - Refusal: practice saying No, Stop, No thanks, I can do it

Critical Skills for Wellness & Sexuality

- ❖ I can speak for myself
 - Practice patient-provider communication skills

- ❖ Talking about how you feel and medical conditions

- ❖ I can talk about my body
 - Anatomical language

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ I am a sexual being<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Healthy relationships
Critical Skills for Community & Travel
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ I can be independent in my community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ I can solve problems when I travel in the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ I can be safe when I travel in the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ I can say "No Thanks."