GETTING STARTED WITH AAC

From Consideration to Implementation

Lora Beeken MS, CCC-SLP
Holly Nester MS, CCC-SLP, ATP
Coordinates
T/TAC @ Virginia Tech
SCENARIO: It has been suggested that a student may benefit from the use of AAC

“Now What?!“

• What is AAC?
• Who is it appropriate for?
• How do we determine which device is best?
• Who purchases the device?
• How do you use an AAC device?
WHAT IS AAC?

• ASHA’s Definition: all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants and ideas.

• Insurance Providers: a functional bypass of body parts that are not working due to illness, injury or disability

• 3 Levels:
  • No-Low Tech supports
  • Mid Tech supports
  • High Tech supports
WHO BENEFITS FROM AAC?

- Those who have limited or no verbal speech
- Individuals who have temporarily or permanently lost the ability to produce verbal speech
- Individuals whose verbal speech is not yet functional

There are currently over 2 million AAC users in the U.S.
IS THERE A PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION?

SETT Framework:

• S = STUDENT
• E = ENVIRONMENT
• T = TASK(S)
• T = TOOL
FUNDING FOR AAC

- School
- Parent/Family
- 3rd Party Sources: Medicare, Medicaid, Insurance and Health Benefit Plans, Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan, Tricare, Department of Veterans Affairs, Special Education & Early Intervention, Vocational Rehabilitation

*Keep in mind there is a 5 year window before these funds are replenished!*
IMPLEMENTATION OF AAC

• Model
• Encourage ALL Attempts
• Set Up Opportunities
• Get All On Board
• Teach Peers

• Respond To All Attempts
• Teach A Variety Of Communicative Messages
• Replace Behaviors With AAC
• Encourage Exploration
• Have AAC Present At ALL Times
RESOURCES

• PrAACtical AAC = http://praacticaalaac.org
• American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA)= http://asha.org
• Augmentative and Alternative Communication Institute = http://aacinstitute.org
• International Society for Augmentative Alternative Communication = https://www.isaac-online.org
• AAC Funding Help = http://www.aacfundinghelp.com