



Communication Systems Discussion Questions

1. AAC is a system composed of different modes of communication used together by individuals to meet daily communication demands including vocalizations, gestures, use of pictures, use of a device and even speech. Could you describe some situations in which your child would benefit from the use of various modes of communication?
2. Early AAC intervention builds on an individual's behaviors, actions, and gestures that are then shaped into skills for communication. AAC training does not depend on the ability to understand abstract symbols or use complex devices. Were AAC devices considered to support your child's communication? At what age?
3. Children and youth will use the most effective means of communication available to them. Speech is more efficient than any AAC system hands down! What form(s) of communication does your child use?
4. When selecting messages for an individual's AAC system, you should be sure to include messages that are: important to the individual, appropriate to their age, their gender, their daily lives, their interests, and life experiences. You want to think of things your child will be motivated to talk about and create opportunities for the communicator to use their system to play and have fun. If your child uses an AAC system, or if your child used an AAC System, what messages would be important to include in your child's system?
5. The school district has specific responsibilities in providing AAC for those students who require it. Do you know how your district performs in providing these services?
 - Evaluating the needs for AAC
 - Obtaining/acquiring the device
 - Providing necessary modification and customization
 - Training the student to use the device
 - Training for professionals
 - Coordinating therapies, interventions, or services
 - Maintenance, repair, and replacement as needed