

# AAC and ASD

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# A real conversation.....sort of

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SPED director: We don't want him to become dependent on his communication device.

Me:

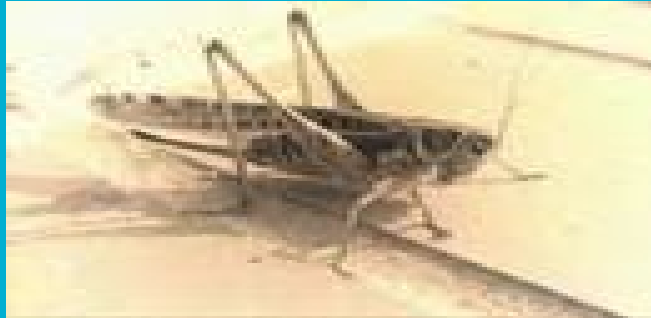


# What I really said in response:

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Me: Well, my momma, who had your job for 25 years used to say that consistent access to a device is essential for some kids. After all, we would not remove a child's prosthetic arm and ask her to write.

SPED director:



# We will talk about:

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- ❖ Definitions
- ❖ Non technology based systems
- ❖ Technology based systems
- ❖ Visual support vs. visual communication
- ❖ Online resources
- ❖ Let's collaborate

# Definitions

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AAC = augmentative alternative communication. AAC is not a device, it is a system. It may include manual signs/gestures, visual communication (eye gaze), and communication devices (communication board, voice output communication aid).

Assistive Technology device = any item, product, equipment used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities. Two categories include low technology (flexible straw) and high technology (voice output aide, computer program, environmental controls, hearing aids, specialized seating)

# Definitions

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Communication board = system that can include pictures, symbols, words and may or may not be electronically operated.

Visual schedule = static presentation of steps, events, activities, routines in visual form.

PECS = specific strategy with explicit steps for implementation to support communication.

Picture-based communication system = individually designed strategy to support communication.

# Definitions

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**Expressive communication** refers to the way in which someone conveys thoughts. Methods of expressive communication include speaking, signing, gesturing, pointing, or crying.

**Receptive communication** refers to the way in which someone interprets or understands a sender's communication. Listening and reading are examples of receptive communication.

**Presymbolic or nonsymbolic communication** refers to communication that does not use symbols such as words or signs. This kind of communication, therefore, does not have a shared meaning for others. Infants use presymbolic communication when they cry, laugh, reach, or point as a way of communicating their thoughts, and the receiver has to guess at the meaning of their messages. For example, babies may cry when they are hungry or reach for a toy when they want to hold it.

**Symbolic communication** refers to communication that involves a shared message between the sender and the receiver. Examples of symbolic communication include speech, sign language, writing (print or braille), picture communication systems, and tactile communication systems.

# Non technology based systems

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PECS = 6 phases of training. Initially requiring two adults to train. Research support.

[www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com)

P-BCS = not a formal strategy, flexible. Can be done with one adult. Harder to establish research base.

Sign/gesture = use of ASL or functional gestures. Easy to use but may not be recognized by larger community. Research support.

[The ASL App](#)



# Non technology based systems

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Visual schedules = can be paper based or via phone/tablet. Research support.

[Ultimate List of Printable Visual Schedules for Home and Daily Routines.](#)

Social stories = can be paper based or via electronic device. Research support.

[Carol Gray - Social Stories: Home](#)

# Technology based systems

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Proloquo2go [Proloquo2Go - AssistiveWare](#)

Prentke Romich [AAC & Speech Devices from PRC](#)

Tobii Dynavox [www.tobiidynavox.com](http://www.tobiidynavox.com)

Saltillo [saltillo.com](http://saltillo.com)

Talk to Me Technologies [Talk To Me Technologies](#)

AbleNet [www.ablenetinc.com](http://www.ablenetinc.com)

# Other resources

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[Awake Labs :: Autism Awake Labs](#)

[BRAIN POWER | Wearable life coach and monitor for people with ...](#)

[The AAC Resources Network](#)

[Thetinytalker](#)

<https://practicalaac.org/tag/aac-goals/>

[LetMeTalk.info: LetMeTalk Blog, AAC Talker Communicator App for ...](#)

# Other resources

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[Flaghouse](#)

[The Center for AAC & Autism | Home](#)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5036660/>

<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/publications/aac/>

[https://www.bridgingapps.org/2018/04/7\\_-best-apps-children-autism/](https://www.bridgingapps.org/2018/04/7_-best-apps-children-autism/)

<https://www.autismparentingmagazine.com/best-autism-apps/>