
AAC DAY WITH THE EXPERTS



WAISMAN CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

WELCOME AND UPDATES

ECHO AAC Interest Survey



[Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\) Peer Support Project | OHSU](#)

[OHSU UCEDD AAC Peer Support Project - YouTube](#)

[Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\) | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

[AT Forward Video Resource Library by Topic](#)

[Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\) | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

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Director, AAC Program

SUPPORTING FAMILIES TO USE THERAPEUTIC AAC STRATEGIES

Becca Stroschein Hopp, M.S., CCC-SLP
Communication Aids and Systems Clinic

BACKGROUND

- Trained at Penn State
- Clinical Fellowship at the Waisman Center
- Research interests: Literacy, Implementation, Capacity-building (for families and professionals)

INSTRUCT PROJECT

- A mobile communication partner training app
 - Developed under a grant by the RERC on AAC
 - 5-10 minute trainings
- Extend application of this project to families

Question: How can we increase carryover of content from therapy sessions and also develop a resource for families on the CASC waitlist?

RERC *on* AAC



TRAINING CONTENT

- Target population: caregivers and parents of children and adults within the Communication Aids and Systems Clinic
- Target skill: aided language stimulation, or **modeling**
 - Modeling definition: a communication partner selects a symbol on the AAC device or a print out communication board while providing spoken input

Introduction

Modeling on
your child's
communication
device

Preview
Checklist

Step 1

Choose an
activity

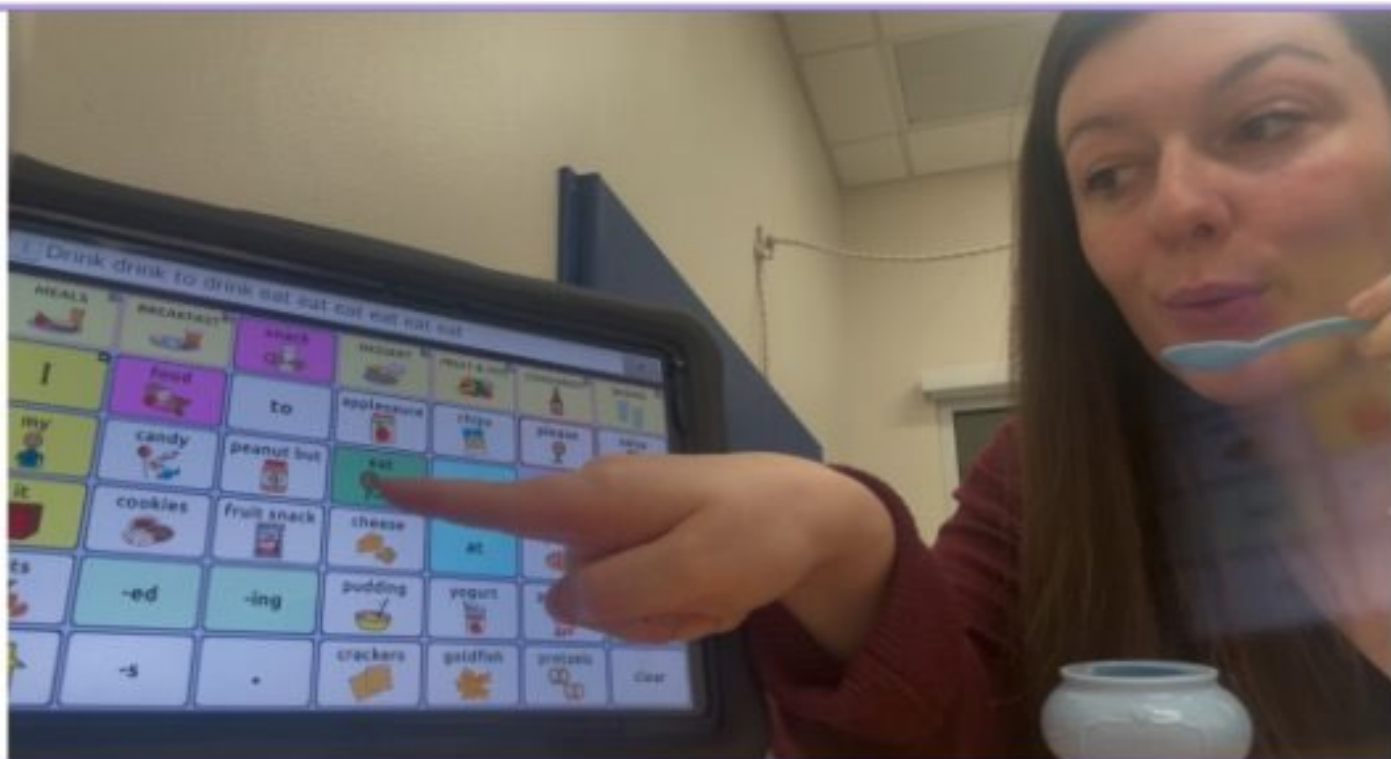
Step 2

Notice

Step 3

Add

Modeling on your child's communication device



Decrease

Introduction

Increase

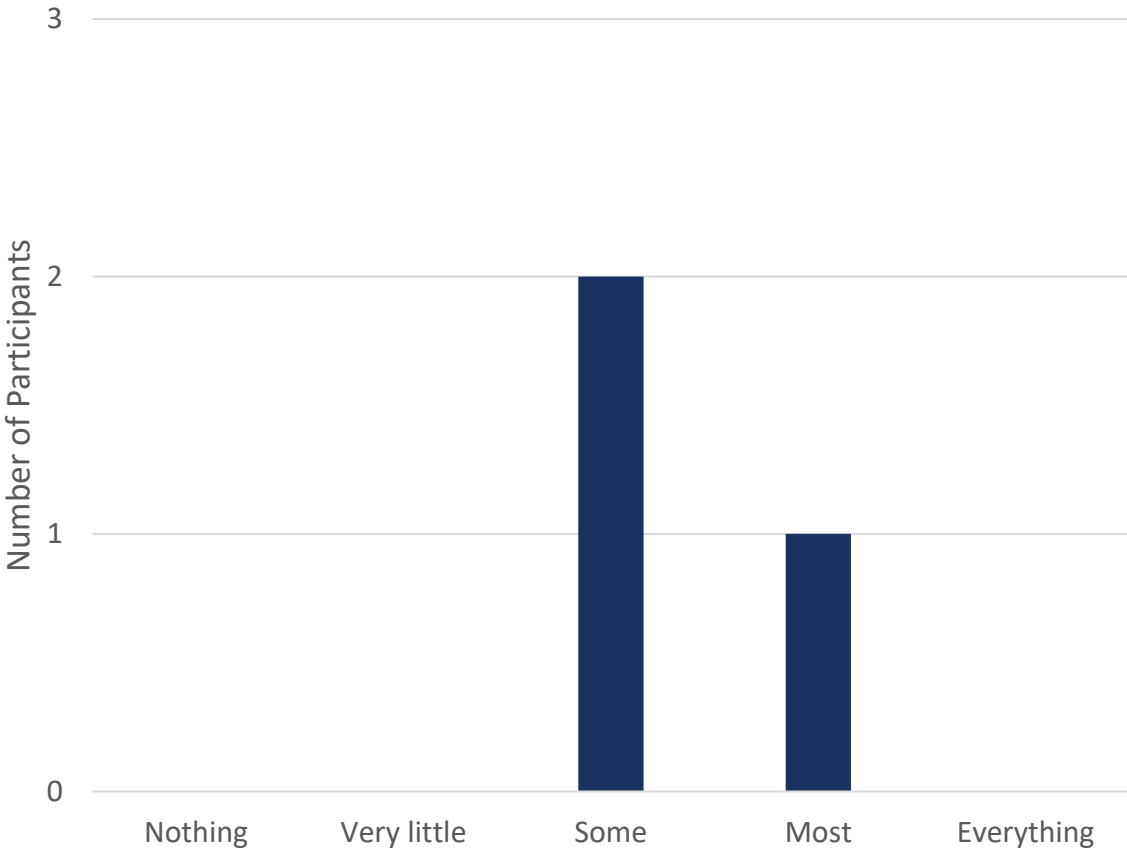
▶ Play

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

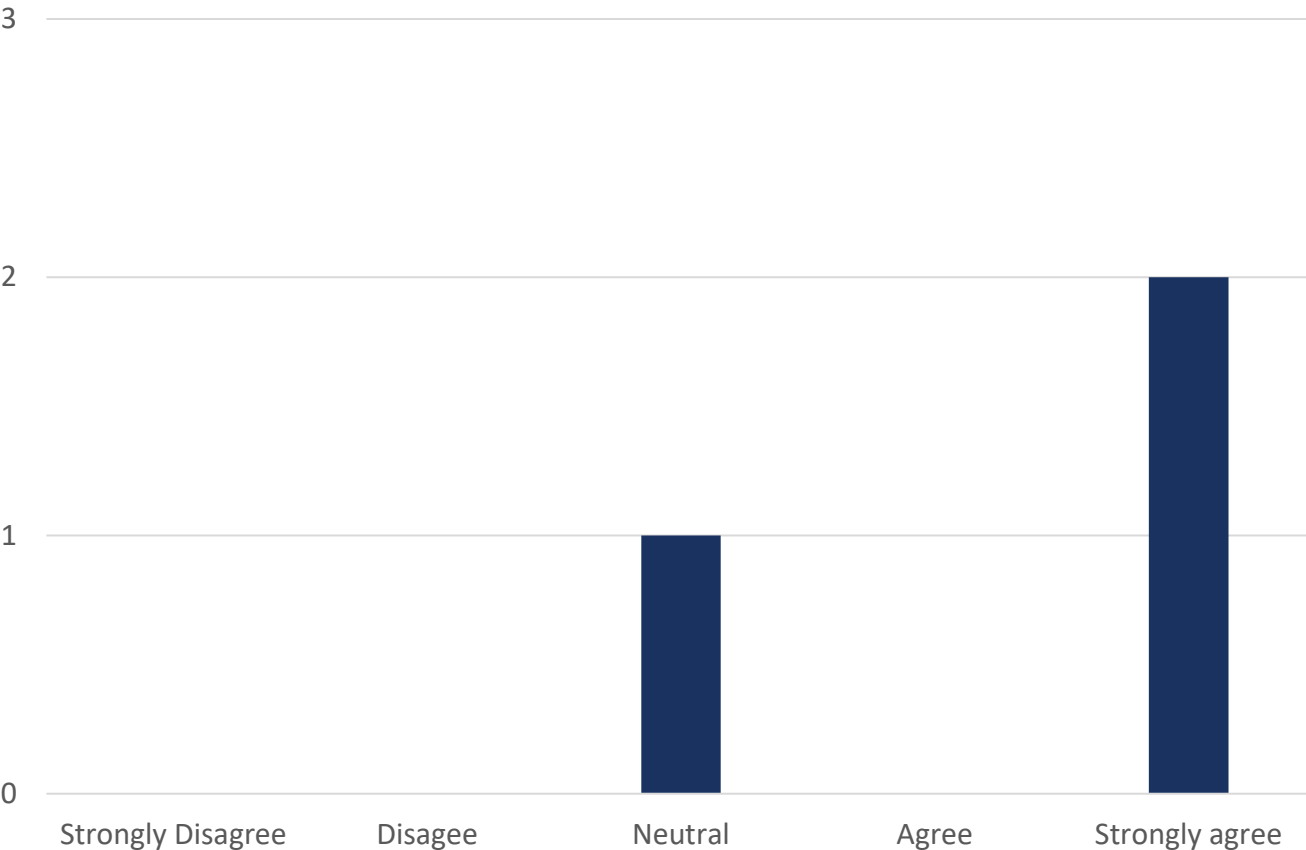
- All participants reported:
 - Viewing modeling to be a "very important" skill prior to receiving training.
 - Training was a "reasonable" amount of time
- One participant commented what they liked was that it was "very understandable"



Tell us about what you are able to remember from the training

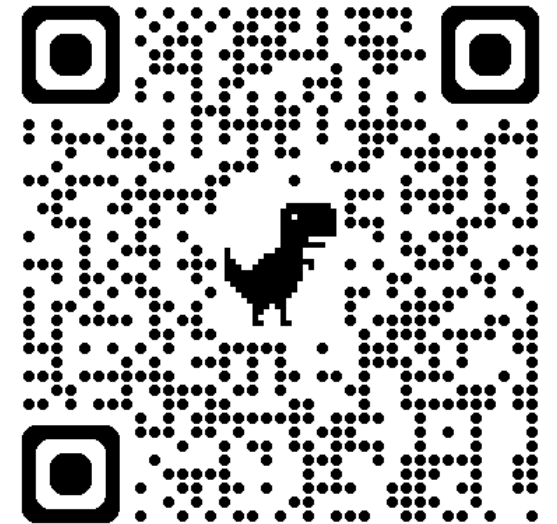


I learned how to provide a model on my child's communication device from the training



NEXT STEPS

- App is available for public download on the Apple app store
- Penn State has a public library online: <https://aac-learning-center.org/category/instruct-video/>



Questions?

If AAC learners **only see symbols modeled** for them twice a week for **20-30** minutes, it will take them **84 years** to have the same exposure to aided language as an **18-month old** has to spoken language.

Jane Korsten

Readily Available Tools to Kickstart Communication

No Tech, Lite
Tech Tools

High Tech
Tools

Local
Resources

National
Resources

COMMUNICATING CHOICES

- Begins to support independence
- Builds vocabulary and/or symbol recognition
 - Tips:
 - Can be object or symbol based!
 - Multiple ways to communicate a choice (reaching, looking, pointing)
 - Important to provide plenty of time for a response (~10-15 seconds)
- Partner assisted scanning

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DICTIONARY

<https://www.inclusionoutreach.ca/wp-content/uploads/Personal-Communication-Dictionaries.pdf>

_____'s Personal Communication Dictionary

Written by _____

Date: _____

Behaviours Observed "What I Do"	Intent/What it Means "What I'm Telling You"	How to Respond "What You can Say or Do"
		1. Identify Behaviour 2. Interpret 3. Respond
I'm looking away, or turning my head away.	I'm not interested in the activity.	1. "J, you're looking away." 2. "You're telling me you don't like ____." 3. "Let's see if there's something else you like better." <i>Offer me a choice of different activities.</i>
My head is up, I'm looking at someone; sometimes I make a short sound like "ah".	I like that person or something about them today; I want to interact with that person.	1. "J, you're looking at ____." 2. "You're telling me you might want to talk to him." 3. "Let's go say hi". <i>Take me over to that person with my BIGmack so I can start a conversation.</i>
My finger or thumb are in my mouth, I make a low-pitched hum.	I'm unhappy, I want to be out of my wheelchair and left alone.	1. "J, your finger is in your mouth and you're humming." 2. "You want to get out of your chair and have some time on your own". 3. <i>Help me transfer out of my chair and give me 15-20 minutes.</i> OR

Respect

Competence

Inclusion

Presence

Choice

LITE TECH COMMUNICATION BOARDS

WordPower™ Core Word Communication Board

what 	when 	where 	hello 	goodbye 	jungle gym 	merry-go-round 	sandbox 	seesaw 	time 	slide 	swing 
I 	me 	how 	who 	why 	again 	please 	thank you 	problem 	now 	bad 	good 
my/mine 	am 	to 	be 	feel 	give 	listen 	happy 	sad 	tired 	okay 	cool 
it 	is are	will 	come 	hurt 	hear 	know 	that 	a 	the 	and 	more 
you 	can 	eat 	drink 	finish 	get 	love 	make 	need 	all 	at 	some 
your 	do 	go 	help 	open 	put 	say/talk 	see/look 	first 	then 	for of	on 
here 	have 	like 	play 	read 	stop 	walk 	show 	wait min 	in 	up 	off 
yes 	no/don't 	want 	take 	tell 	turn 	watch 	wear 	work 	out 	down 	with 

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Cars

want



beep



go



quickly



stop



bus



car



slowly



more



home



school



crash



ACCESSING LITE TECH BOARDS

Boardmaker Picture Communication Symbols from Tobii Dynavox's Lite-tech Communication Board Options:

<https://us.tobiidynavox.com/collections/low-tech-aac/products/core-first-communication-books> for a free 6x6 and 7x9 low-tech communication boards.

Minspeak Symbols:

<https://aaclanguagelab.com/materials/2019PlaygroundSignPRC.pdf>

<https://aaclanguagelab.com/materials/2020PlaygroundSignLamp1.pdf>

From PRC Saltillo (mix of symbol sets):

<https://aaclanguagelab.com/resources?free=1>

Proloquo2go:

<https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac/quick-communication-boards>

Super Core:

<https://thinksmartbox.com/news/low-tech-super-core-resources/>

Project Core:

<https://www.project-core.com/communication-systems/>

TIP FROM AN AAC SPECIALIST

"Remember that before we expect your child to use these symbols expressively, we want to **provide many teaching opportunities and show the individual many different ways that he or she can use the word**. For example, if you are focusing on pairing a symbol for "stop" with your speech and signs, see how many different ways you can use this word in your day. Each time that you say "stop," you can point to the word and symbol for "stop" and you can also sign 'stop.' - KAYLA KRISTENSEN, CCC-SLP

HIGH TECH STRATEGIES

App	Features	Length of trial	Multiple languages?
TouchChat Discover 	• Embedded page branching • Option to record messages for buttons • When the trial ends, you'll still have access to English and Spanish lite-tech boards	30 days	Yes (6)
TD Snap 	• Has a motor planning page set • Customization of buttons including skin tone, hair color, and more • A search bar to locate words and symbols • A cloud-based resource for backing up, sharing, and syncing customized content	30 days through Apple Store 60 days through MyTobiiDyanvox	Yes (20)
GoTalk NOW LITE 	• Customize premade features with images from your device, recordings, linking songs from your playlist, and adding spoken labels to any button • Create multimedia social stories and step-by-step instruction layouts by linking pages	No set length, unlimited access to 5 pages	Yes (12)

App	Features	Length of trial	Multiple languages?
GoVisual (25 scenes) 	- Create personalized video scenes (mini movies to serve a variety of functions) or collage scenes with images - Can be linked to the GoTalk NOW app	No set length	No (only English)
LAMP 	Motor planning - Core and fringe words - Word finder tool - After the free trial ends, maintain access to lite tech board	30 days	Yes (3)
Grid 	Multiple symbol and text-based apps - Includes accessible learning apps - Swiftkey predicting - Remote editing	30 days through Apple iPad 60 days through Windows	Yes (20+)
Proloquo 	- Core and topic vocabulary - Search function to find any word Proloquo Coach: in-app support and guided practice - Thinking Space: visualize and organize your thoughts by arranging words and symbols and connecting concepts	30 days	Yes (4)

TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- What is motivating and meaningful? Where do they find joy?
- Model, model, model!
- Talk to your local SLP (through birth to 3, school team, outpatient) as you try out different systems
- PRC Saltillo Chat Corner: Active with AAC
- Tobii Dynavox Learning Hub: Creating a Supportive Communication Environment

Model It on the AAC Device

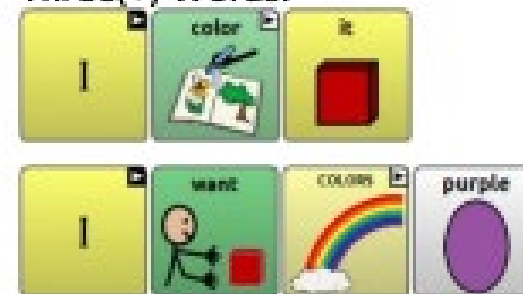
One Word:



Two Words:



Three(+) Words:



COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN WISCONSIN

- WisTech
- Independent Living Centers
- ATForward
- CESAs
- Wisconsin AAC Network
- WDBTAP



CONNECTION BETWEEN LITERACY AND COMMUNICATION

Literacy skills positively impact communication development

BOOKSHARE



Bookshare

PANEL

Now we will hear from people with lived experiences navigating these tools and resources

ECHO SURVEY

ECHO AAC Interest Survey

