# AAC Evaluations

Rachell Johnson, M.C.D., CCC-SLP

AT Team Lead for a school district and AT consultant.

consultrachell@gmail.com

In this Presentation

▷ AAC evaluation myths

▷ conducting effective AAC evaluations

▷ successful device submission reports
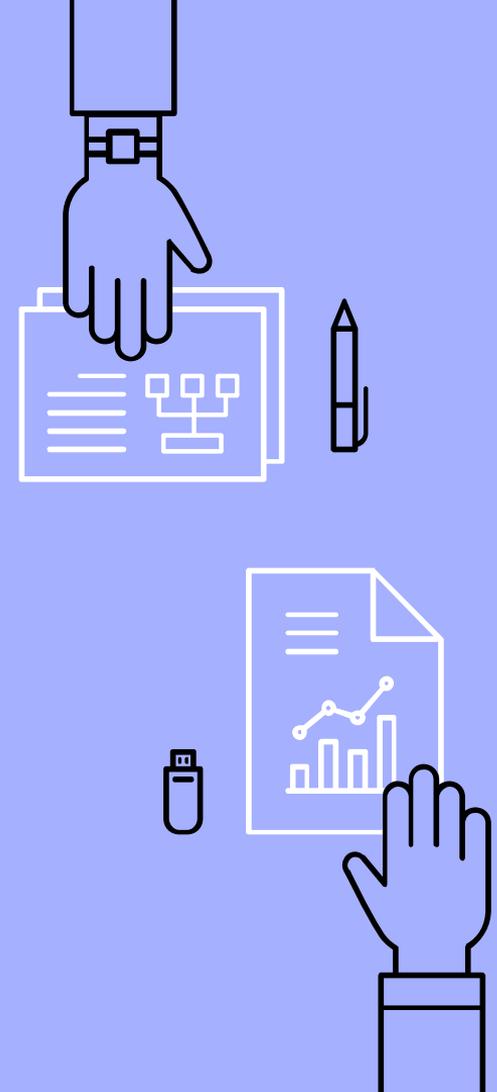
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AAC Evaluation Myths
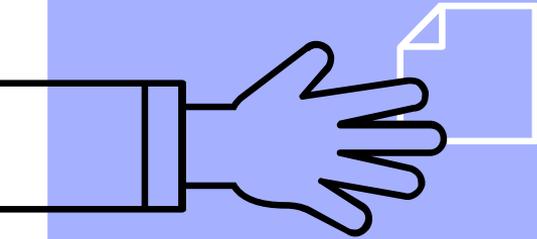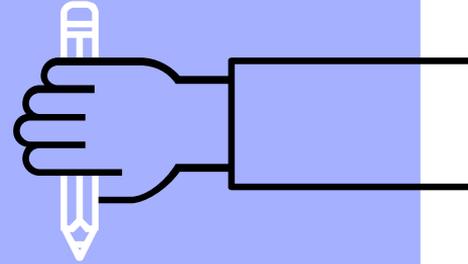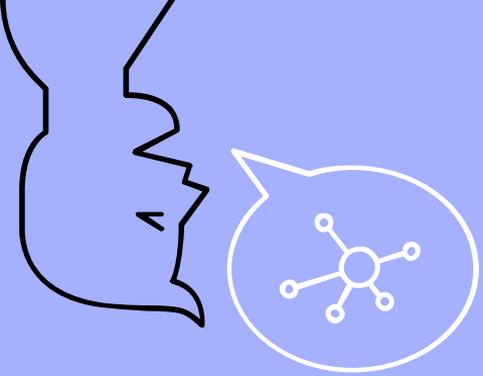
> *There are pre-requistes to doing AAC evaluations.*
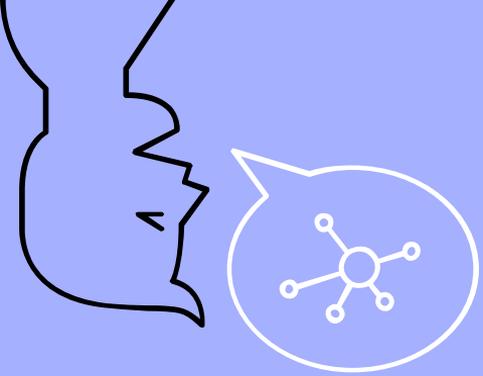
> ❝
>
> ▷ *Too Young*
> ▷ *Illiterate*
> ▷ *You have to use low tech for ____amount of time*
> ▷ *Poor cognitiation =no device*

No
Pre-Set
of Skills

There are no prerequisites, symbol acquisition levels, age requirements, cognitive abilities, to developing AAC skills and proceeding with an AAC evaluation.

Trending Research

Symbol Acquisition (2018)

Children with developmental disabilities and significant delays in receptive and expressive language skills can learn new symbol relationships when given the chance and based on how they are taught.

Instructional Strategies for Graphic Symbol Learning (2018)

Children learn to use AAC best when provided with Aided AAC modeling, narrative (familiar context/routine) based interventions, eclectic approach with prompt hierarchies.

Impact of Aided Language Stimulation (2004)

Aided Language Stimulation facilitates symbol comprehension and symbol production.

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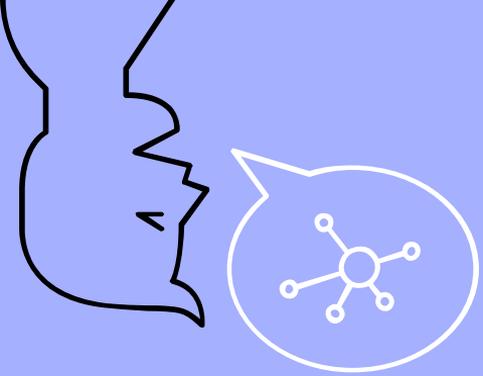
> *High tech is the best tech*

> "
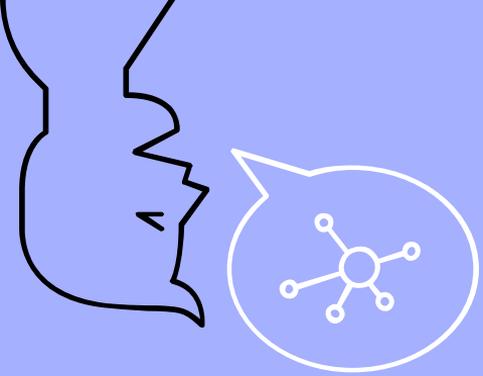
Communication only happens in the/or at_____
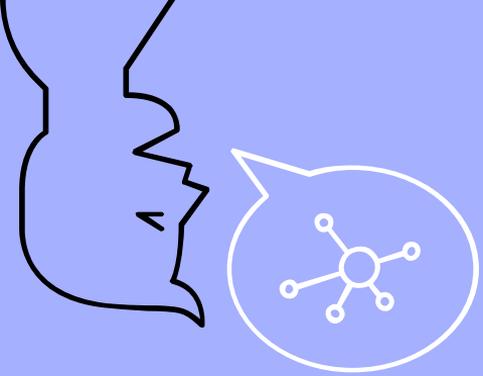
> Magical AAC tool or device that works for everyone
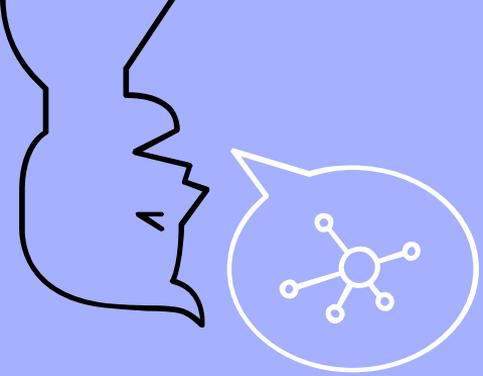
> *The evaluation is the end.*
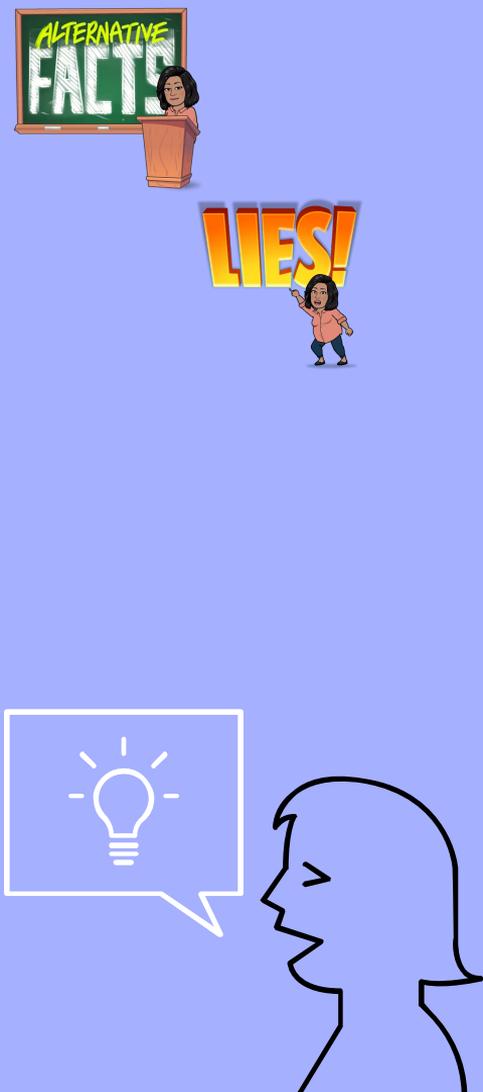
Evaluations are on-going

An evaluation is a snapshot in time. It is never just one. It is the beginning.
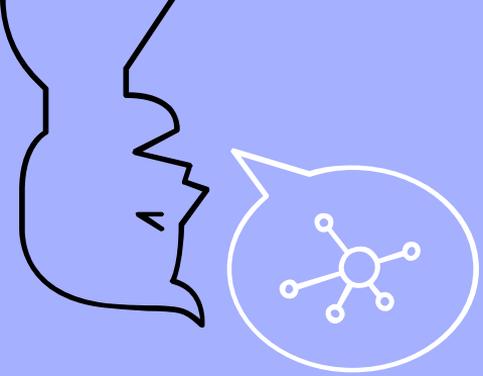
> *You have to use a standardized assessment tool.*
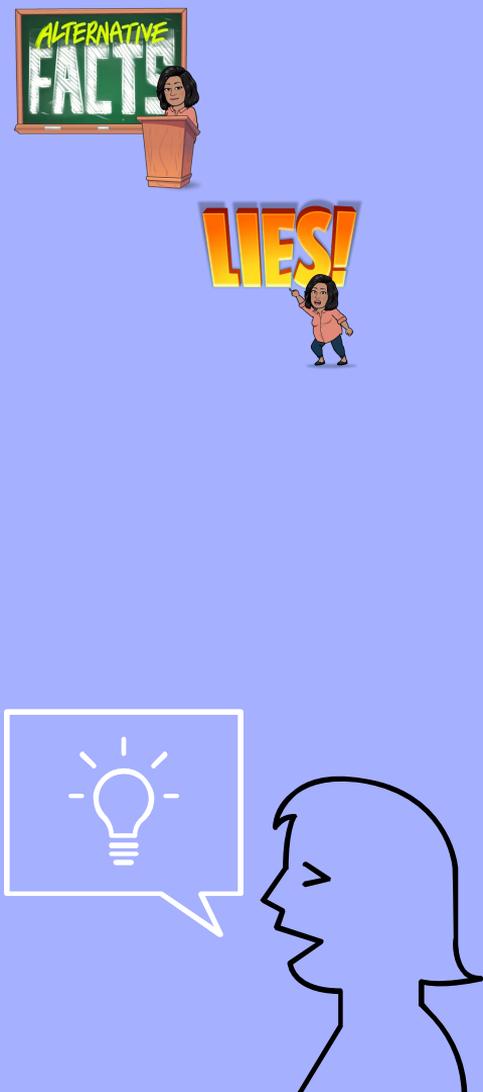
When to recommend AAC?
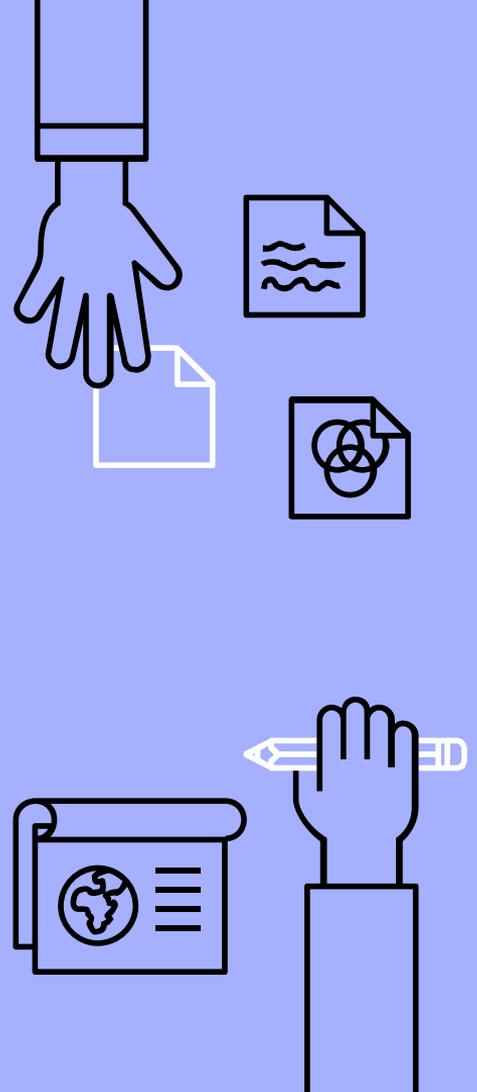
Communicators

Emergent

Limited understanding that symbols represent ideas.

Context-Dependent

Understands picture symbols or photographs that represent commonly used objects, actions, or people.

Independent

Can use a combination of communication tools to communicate across a variety of settings with many different communication partners including same aged peers.

AAC Evaluation Tools

Standardized Test

You modify a standardized test to give you more information about you student/client/or patient.

***REPORTING

Observations

Observations and tool oriented screeners are a great resource

AAC Evaluation Genie

AAC Goals Grid within the Pathways for Core First App

SETT Framework

▷ Student (Person)

▷ Environment

▷ Task

▷ Tool
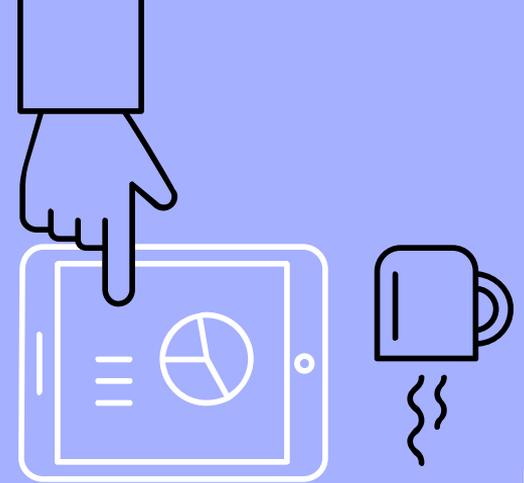
▷ Find tools that will allow you to evaluate the whole person

▷ Find tools that help streamline processes and documentation

▷ Find tools that are easily accessible and if necessary adaptable

Find and familiarize yourself with an evaluation tool(s).

▷ Sett Frame work:
http://www.joyzabala.com/Home.php

▷ S(student)
▷ E(environment)
▷ T(task)
▷ T(tool)

Page 1

SETT SCAFFOLD FOR GATHERING DATA–ANNOTATED
Collaboratively Gather and Analyze Information from a Variety of Sources

Student: _____ Date: _____ Perspective: _____

EXAMINING CURRENT CONDITIONS TO ESTABLISH EDUCATIONAL NEED		
STUDENT	**ENVIRONMENTS**	**TASKS**
INFORMATION RELATED SPECIFICALLY TO THE STUDENT, INCLUDING SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN, SPECIAL NEEDS, CURRENT ACHIEVEMENT, INTERESTS, GOALS, ETC.	INFORMATION RELATED TO ANYONE WHO IS AROUND THE STUDENT OR ANYTHING THAT IS PROVIDED TO THE STUDENT.	INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE DETAILS OF THE TASKS THAT ARE CURRENTLY REQUIRED OF THE STUDENT OR WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
- Build shared knowledge about the student that can be used to identify need for tools, guide decisions about tools, and assist in planning implementation and evaluation of effectiveness. - Determine what still needs to be known and how it can be found out. - Add additional information as it becomes available through evaluation, implementation, or discussion	- Build shared knowledge about the environments in which the student is, or can be, expected to learn and grow. This information can be used to identify need for environmental supports and training, and assist in planning implementation and evaluation of effectiveness. - Determine what still needs to be known and how it can be found out. - Add additional information as it becomes available through evaluation, implementation or discussion	- Build shared knowledge about the tasks that the student needs to do or learn to do that are currently difficult or impossible for the student to do at the expected level of independence. - This information can be used to identifying the type of tools needed, but will also play a critical role in planning implementation and evaluation of effectiveness. - Determine what still needs to be known and how it can be found out. - Add additional information as it becomes available through evaluation, implementation, discussion.

How to Streamline?

Make the tool work for you. Incorporate it into your referral process.
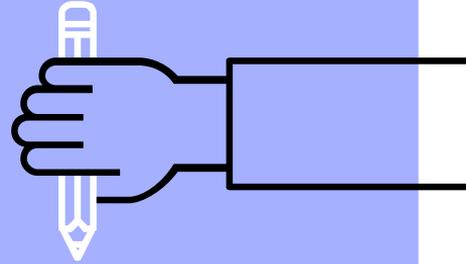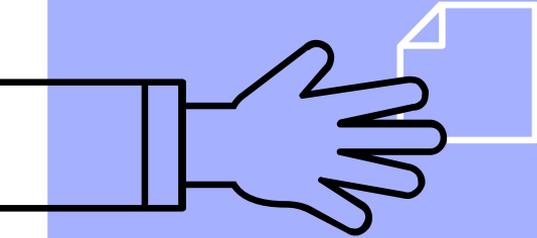
AAC TechConnect Inc.
Whole Person

The Person: Skills & Features to Consider for Assistive Technology

Copyright © 2010 AAC TechConnect, Inc.
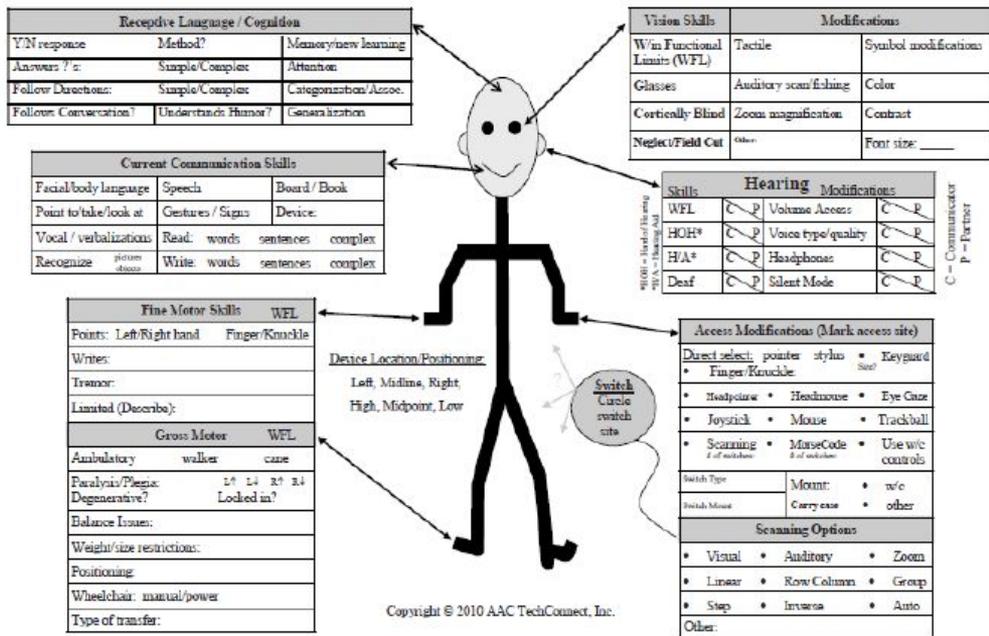
▹ AT EVAL2Go App by Smarty Ears Apps

▹ Comprehensive
▹ Generates a report
▹ Allows you to add audio and photos into your report
▹ Easy to use

Evaluation Genie by HumpSoftware

▷ Accessible
▷ Informal
▷ Easy to use
▷ Has a guide
▷ Gain useful information about potential AAC user'
▷ Use guide to create your own scoring/recommendations template

Sample Screen

AAC Goals Grid within the Pathways for Core First app

Competency Areas

▹ Linguistic

▹ Social

▹ Operational

▹ Strategic

Ability Level

▹ Emergent

▹ Emergent Transitional

▹ Context Dependent

▹ Transitional Independent

▹ Independent

Before you start...

▷ Know the person
- Health History Questionnaire
  - Current Medical Status and History
  - History of the person's use of AAC devices or strategies
  - Hearing and vision
  - Mobility component
▷ Know the rules of your funding source
▷ Know the funding packet requirements of the DME provider.

DME Vs. Funding Sources

▹ Durable Medical Equipment Provider (DME)–Device Company

▹ Medicaid, Medicare, Private Insurances–Funding Source

▹ Each DME Provider will have a funding packet/requirements:

- Client Information Form (demographic, insurance info)
- Release Form
- Assignment of benefits/Financial responsibility
- Copy of insurance cards
- SLP Report
- Physician's Prescription
- Additional items (LMN or forms specific to funding source)

Funding Sources

▷ Medicaid
  ■ Each State is Different
  ■ Some require a particular format/form
  ■ Trial period or definition of trial
  ■ Data
  ■ Standardized vs. Non-Standardized testing
  ■ Letter of Medical Necessity (LMN)
  ■ Who signs the report?

Funding Sources

▷ Medicare & Private Insurance
- Medicare review is regional
- Some rules will be across all regions (report must not use drop down boxes)
- Trial period or definition of trial
- Standardized vs. Non-Standardized testing
- Letter of Medical Necessity (LMN)
- Who signs the report?

Funding Report

▷ Communication Impairment:

- Relevant Medical Status, History, and therapeutic program
- Communication Impairment Description "Severe"
  - detailed description of the Dysarthria, apraxia, aphasia- give examples of verbalization/communication— this is really where you are going to 'set the stage' for why we are asking for an AAC device.
  - Communication Impairment: intelligibility, rate of speech, and coordination of breathing and speaking, ability to phonate, and expressive speech.
  - any use of low tech strategies, books, devices used in the past
  - prior level of function, employment, education
  - Current status level: where and with whom they live, employment, day program, school/grade etc.
- Prognosis; Anticipated course of Impairment: Stable? Declining?

  -ability to improve with SGD?

Funding Report

▷ Comprehensive Assessment:
- Hearing and Vision
  - The patient possesses the visual/hearing abilities to effectively use a SGD to communicate functionally. WNL or WFL
  - Vision Modification: Positioning of device appropriately to allow for proper access to eye gaze accessory.
- Physical Status
  - Functional mobility-Ambulatory?
  - Upper Extremity Function (direct selection, scanning,)
  - How will they use the communication device? In what position?
  - Mounting-Is it medically necessary?
- "With the modification _____the patient possesses the physical abilities to effectively use a SGD and required accessories to communicate."

Funding Report

▷ Rationale for choosing device:
- Must try more than 1 device
- State why a device was ruled out
- State why the recommended device was selected
- Examples of Device use during evaluation and trial or treatments sessions
- Tell how which selection method was most successful (dwell, blink etc.)
- Must state this SGD with eye gaze accessory is the best method of functional communication for ____. Then tell why (most consistent method, most accurate, most effective etc).
- List features needed as determined by language skills and cognitive abilities as well as vision and hearing needs

Rationale for Accessories

*EACH ACCESSORY SHOULD BE LISTED ON A SEPARATE LINE UNDER THE RECOMMENDED SGD *

Code E2599 (miscellaneous accessories for SGDs)

▷ Eyegaze
  - Rule out all other methods of access including less costly direct touch selection, all switches (UE,LE, head) and headmouse

Code E2512 (mounting equipment for SGDs)

▷ Mounts
  - Reiterate comments which should have been already noted under physical environments
  - Switch mounts also fall under this code

BRICK-tips for *dynamic* AAC report writing

Be repetitive and descriptive
Rule out other devices and accessories
Informative writing
Check behind yourself; avoid contradictory statements
**K**now the report writing rules of your funding source

- Do NOT Forget your Treatment plan with functional communication goals!

Do not forget: Treatment Plan

- Treatment Plan should include a long term and short term goals.
- You must state the frequency in which you will see the student/patient
- Choose goals carefully
  - Make them meaningful
  - Correlate to a competency area (linguistic, social, operational, strategic)
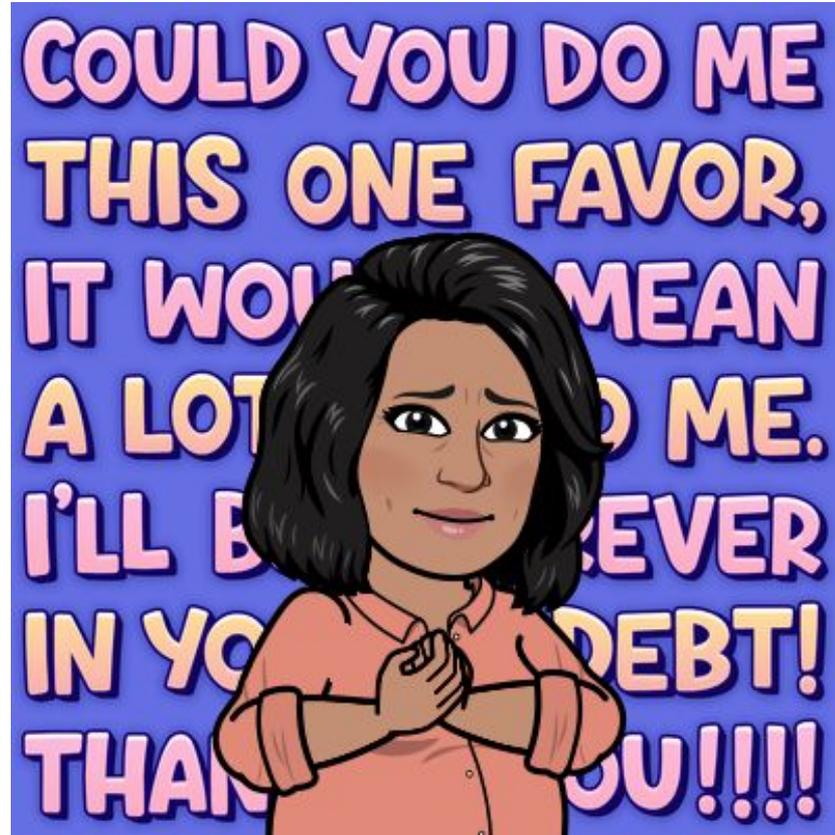
THANKS!

Any questions?

CREDITS

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

▷ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival

▷ Photographs by Unsplash

Resources:

ASHA

▷ http://www.asha.org/SLP/healthcare/Medicare-Speech-Generating-Devices-Information/

▷ http://www.asha.org/Events/live/03-25-2015-Funding-SGDs.htm

Evaluation Genie

▷ http://www.humpsoftware.com/aacevaluationgenie.html

Tobii Dynavox Pathways for Core First (AAC Goals Grid)

▷ http://tdvox.web-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/Pathways%20For%20Core%20First/Marketing%20Literature/TD-Pathways-PI-Sheet-121118.pdf

Smarty Ears: AT2Go

▷ https://www.smartyearsapps.com/ateval2go-3/