

BUILDING BRIDGES TO COMMUNICATION: THE VITAL ROLE OF EARLY AAC INTERVENTION

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Learning Objectives

1. Identify indicators for AAC implementation
2. Identify various intervention strategies for children under 8 years
3. Increase parent/teacher involvement and engagement during sessions

AAC Inspirations

- PrAACtical AAC
- AACchicks
- Emily Diaz
- Meaningful Speech
- AAC and Me
- Connections Speech Pathology

Introduction

- As early as you identify the need
- No “checklist” or “rules” on when to introduce AAC
- AAC does NOT mean we are giving up on spoken words
- Introduce robust systems
- Scaffold with low-tech to high-tech if needed, but it is NOT a requirement

Interventions

1. Modeling
 - Model without expectation
2. Functional Communication Training
 - Compliance does NOT equal engagement
3. Naturalistic Instruction
 - Child-led therapy
4. Multi-modal Communication
 - All forms of communication are communication