



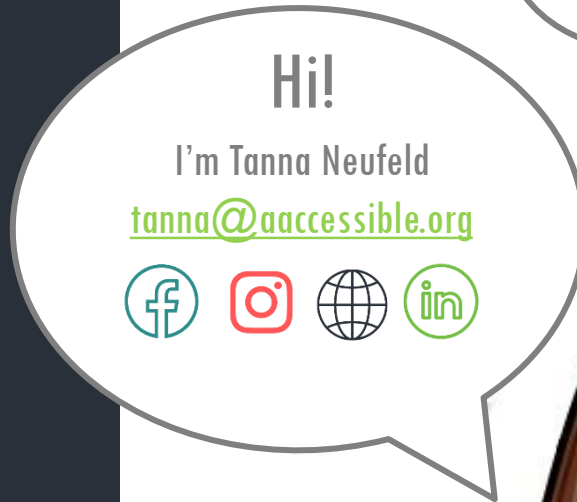
AAC IN EARLY INTERVENTION: WHERE DO I START?

Tannalynn Neufeld, MS, CCC-SLP
AACcessible.org

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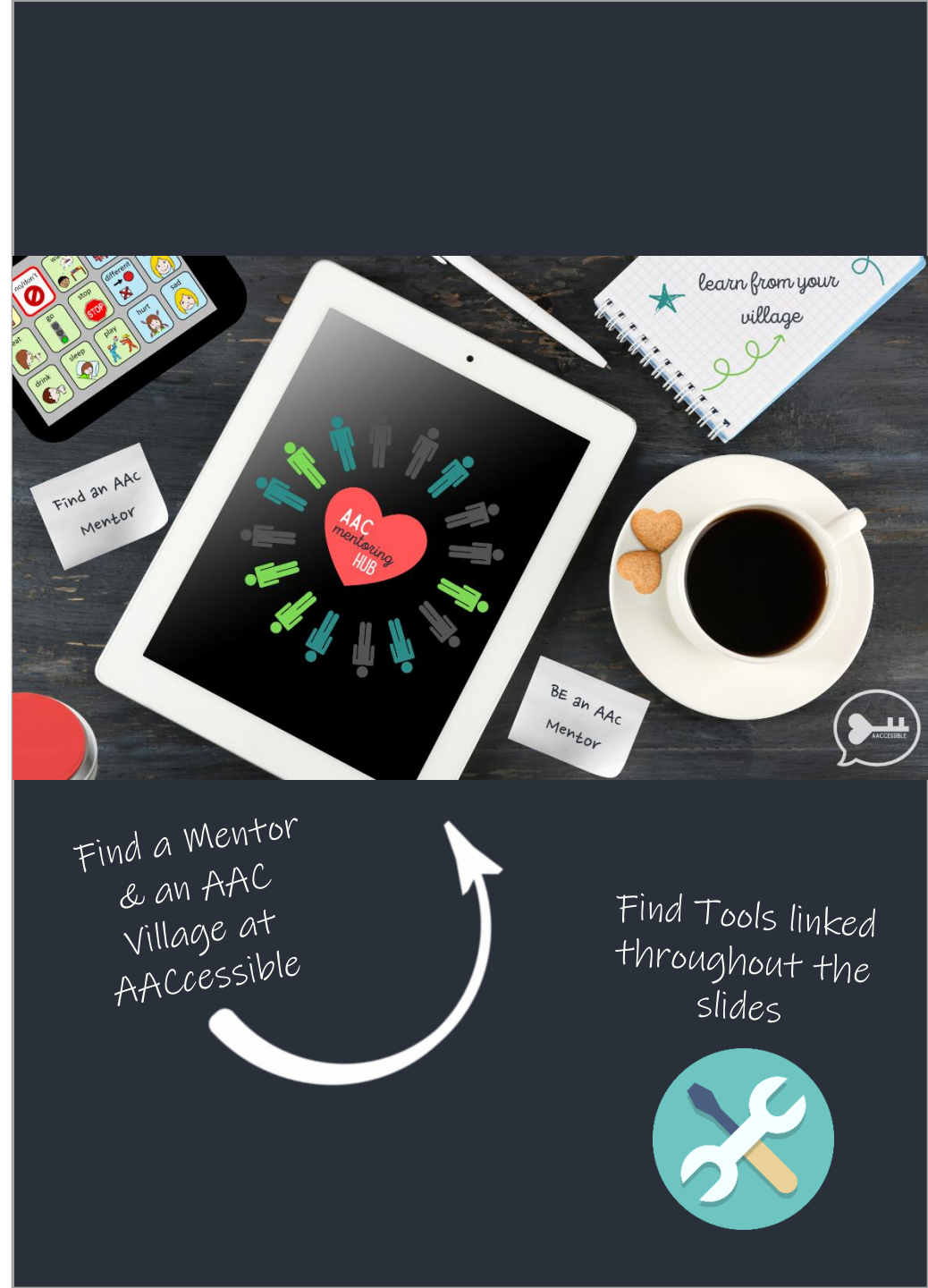
ABOUT ME

- AAC SLP at DTA Schools
- AAC Consultant & Coach, Summit AAC & Autism Support & El Colorado
- Founding Director AACcessible (501c3 charitable org)
 - [Resources](#)
 - [Trainings](#)
 - [Community](#)
- Adjunct Professor, AAC Foundations, The University of Washington



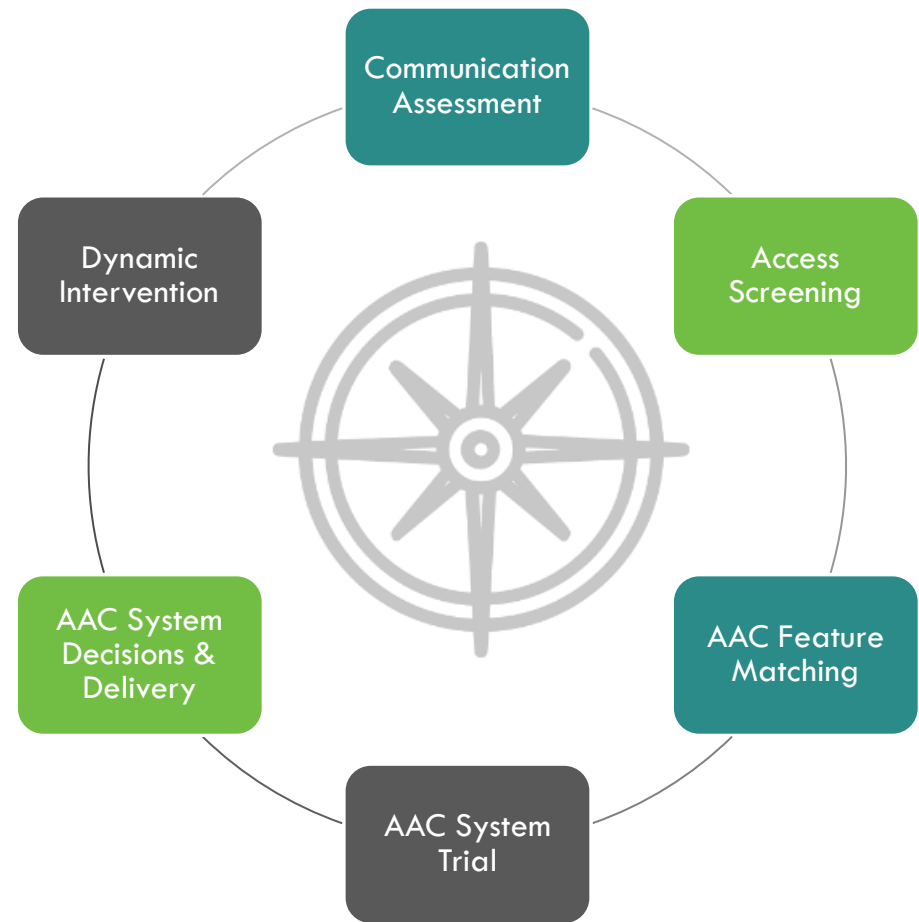
OUR GOALS

1. Identify three strategies to include in your assessment process that can help you plan for early integration of AAC tools and strategies
2. Identify three resources to help you obtain AAC tools to try with children and families
3. Identify three factors to consider when sharing information about AAC with team members and families



OUR PATH

- Bringing an AAC lens to assessment and support
(15 minutes)
- Identifying resources to get AAC tools
(15 minutes)
- Talking about AAC with colleagues and families
(15 minutes)
- Resources & Questions
(10 minutes)



THE AAC COMPASS FRAMEWORK



OBTAIN A FULL AAC ASSESSMENT,
BUT UNTIL THEN...

AAC DEVICE GRAPHICS BY @DRAWNTOAAC

AN AAC LENS

- **Skills**

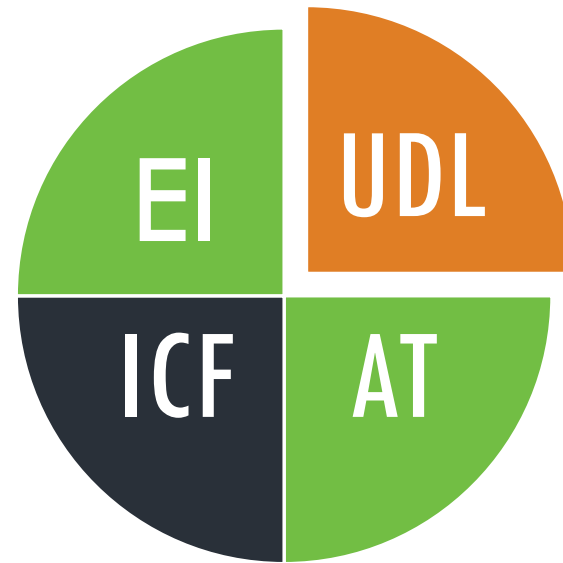
- Current communication
- “Next steps”

- **Needs**

- Access
- Participation

- **Preferences**

- Child
- Family




3 KEY STRATEGIES


1. Interview, Questionnaire & Observation
2. Communication Dictionary
3. AAC Word Maps

Get Tools!




AAC Assessment Compass Field Guide		
Communication Dictionary		
Kyle Parker	12/2020	www.aaccessible.org
Context	Signal	Interpretation
Engaged in an activity or offered an activity	Ignores or uses a protest vocalization	I don't want to do this
Varied contexts when item is in sight	Vocalization with high pitch	I want that (request object)
When asked about an activity	Vocalization with high pitch	I want to do that (request activity)
During an activity	Vocalization with smile, high pitch	I like this (comment, share enjoyment)
When alone or adult is out of sight	Vocalization, short sounds, low pitch	I want attention
Carried context, around mealtimes	Fusing sounds, long and varied pitch	I'm hungry or thirsty

TANNA NEUFELD, MS, CCC-SLP



AAC COMPASS: FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION SURVEY

A TOOL FOR GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT, FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR COMMUNICATORS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS.



WWW.AACCESSIBLE.ORG

CORE WORDS

in, out, on, off, put, take, more, done, no, don't, not, here, make, I, me, my, mine, you, your, help, big, little, want, there, push, where, what, up, down, again, like, that, look, fall, it, this, tall, short, long, under, over, through, careful

FRINGE WORDS

block, shapes, figure names, numbers, colors, build, crash!, structure names, oh no!, ta da!, wow!

OTHER _____


WHAT YOU NEED

blocks
figures
your child's AAC

HOW TO USE WORD MAPS

Play/be together & model these words or phrases by saying them & showing them on an AAC tool. Model the words that go along with the things the child is most interested in during this activity. Choose a few words at a time and model words at or just above the child's current level.

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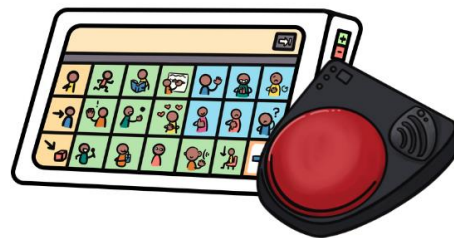


AAC WORD MAP BLOCKS

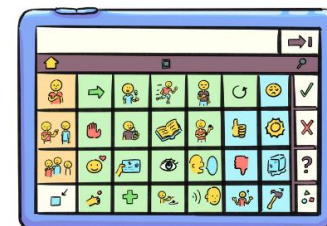
FEATURES OF A STARTER SYSTEM

- Accessible
- Useful
- Feasible
- Acceptable
- Multimodal

MID-TECH



HIGH-TECH



LOW/LIGHT-TECH

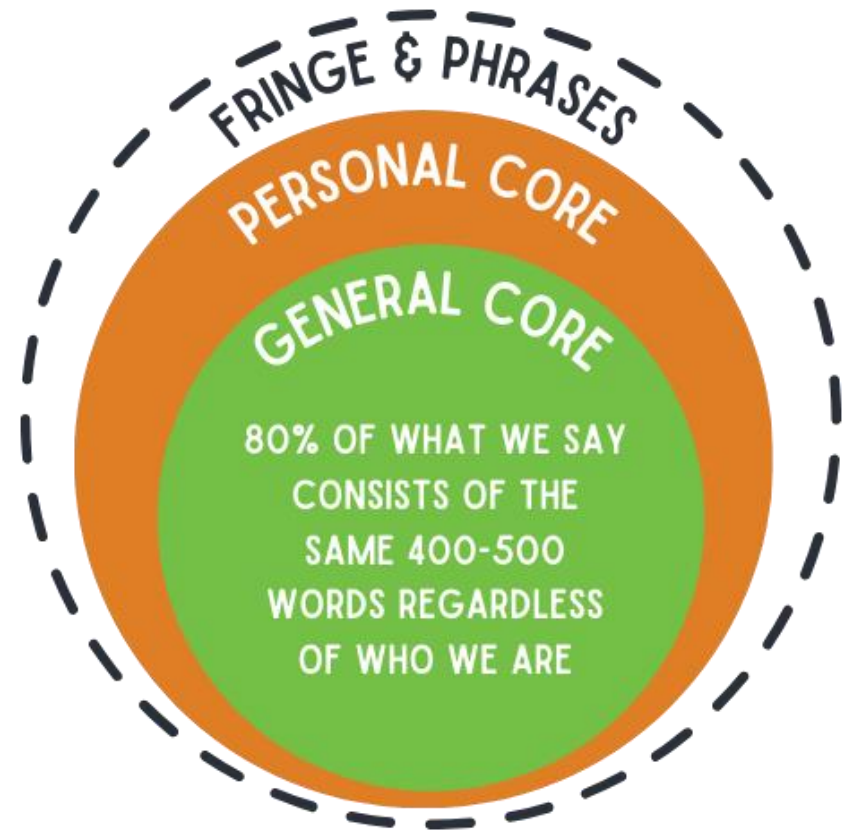


NO-TECH



TYPES OF VOCABULARY

- **General Core**
Frequent, versatile
- **Personal Core**
Essential to THAT communicator
- **Fringe**
Infrequent, specific focus
- **Coverage**
What I need to say “right now”
- **Developmental**
What I need to learn for later
- **What about phrases?**



FIND AAC TOOLS

1. Adapt or Create Low Tech
2. Connect with AT Loan Libraries & Programs
3. Build a Starter Library



TALKING ABOUT AAC

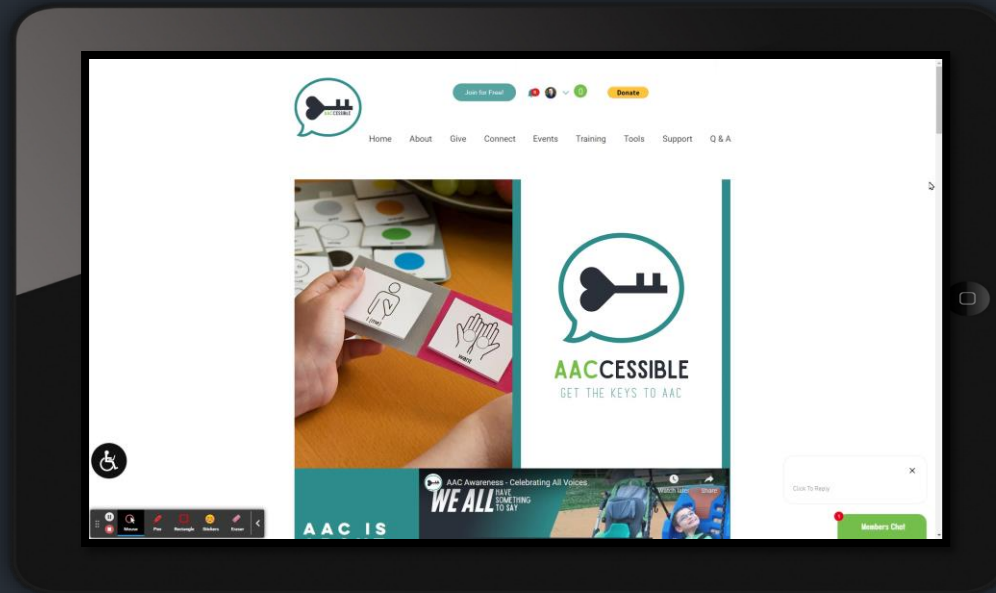
- Build a trusting relationship
- Bust myths
- Emphasize 'augmentative' over 'alternative'
- Draw connections with other AT
- Foster a mindset of competence
- Be patient and gradual



Tons of Resources at AACcessible

- Free or low cost [Tools](#)
- Trainings at [The AAC Academy](#)
- Curation Galore at [the Stacks!](#)
- Online [support](#) & community for parents & pros

Thanks for joining!



www.aacaccessible.org

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BRINGING AAC INTO THE HOME FOR LEARNERS UNDER 5

LIVE NOVEMBER 28, 2023, ON-DEMAND THEREAFTER





AAC EARLY STARTS CONFERENCE

LIVE 02/15/24 & 02/16/24

FREE VIRTUAL

hosted by WWW.AACCESSIBLE.ORG



DIVE DEEPER INTO
EI & AAC TOPICS



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QUESTIONS?

