

# Talking Points for SLPs

## 1. MY CHILD WILL BECOME DEPENDENT ON THEIR AAC DEVICE AND LOSE THE MOTIVATION TO TALK.

“Research suggests AAC devices do not impede natural speech development and instead have shown to be great supplements to spoken language and enhance an AAC users’ communication methods. AAC is a tool that can be utilized as a total communication approach for the child and provides a bridge to help them expand their language skills.”

## 2. MY CHILD IS NOT READY FOR HIGH TECH AAC.

“There are no prerequisites for using a high tech AAC device. Children of any age and cognitive level can benefit from using AAC to aid in communication and language development. If your child is successfully using no tech and mid tech devices, there is opportunity for them to have their own high tech AAC device. Due to advancements in technology and communication apps, we can configure them to mirror more simple set ups, whether it is a one cell, two cell, or 32 cell page set. This gives your child the opportunity for the device to grow with them as they continue to develop language.”

## 3. MY CHILD IS TOO YOUNG TO USE AAC.

“Young children who experience complex communication needs benefit from AAC devices and strategies to help aid in the development of language, literacy, communication, and cognitive development. The earlier AAC is incorporated into their lives, the greater the potential for improved outcomes.”

## 4. MY CHILD IS FRUSTRATED AND HAVING TANTRUMS BECAUSE THEY CANNOT COMMUNICATE WHAT THEY WANT OR NEED.

“Using AAC as a tool in a total communication approach can help to aid your child express their wants and needs. Introducing AAC early, before communication breakdowns occur, has positive effects on speech and language development because the child learns how to communicate what they are feeling.”

## 5. THIS IS TOO COMPLICATED; I DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE A DEVICE OR AAC.

“There are many resources available to aid in yours and your child’s ability to work towards independently using a speech generating device. Help with AAC intervention will be provided, as well as a service delivery model that supports you to use the device throughout your child’s speech and language intervention.”