

Tips For Evaluating the Need For AAC

The Speech Language Pathologist plays a key role in the assessment of individuals who benefit from AAC. The determination and assessment of appropriate AAC is an ongoing process that they must be involved in over the course of an individual's lifetime. Here are some tips, tricks, and tools for SLPs to use to better determine and identify clients on their caseload who are good candidates for AAC.

- 1.) Screen individuals who may benefit from AAC:
 - a. Are there any individuals on your caseload who may currently be struggling with their current communication abilities? Things to consider when screening these individuals:
 - o Who understands their communication attempts, and to what degree?
 - o How are they currently communicating and is it successful?
 - o Is there an AAC system already in place and does this system meet their needs for communication growth?
- 2.) Provide a dynamic assessment:
 - a. Use dynamic assessment tools to identify the individual's current skills and future learning potential.

Here are some resources you can use to assist you in this process:

AAC Assessment Checklist:

<https://my.vanderbilt.edu/specialeducationinduction/files/2011/09/IA.AAC-assessment-checklist1.docx>

AAC Checklist & Rubric:

<http://www.aacintervention.com/home/180009852/180009852/tips/2000/AAC%20Checklist.pdf>

Assessment of Learning Process (ALP): <https://www.alpforaac.com/>

Communication Matrix: <https://www.communicationmatrix.org/>

Functional Communication Profile: <https://www.proedinc.com/Products/34040/fcpr-functional-communication-profile-revised.aspx>

- 3.) Interview communication partners:
 - a.) It is important to include all those involved in the individual's communication journey in the assessment process. You want to ensure families are involved in the decision-making process for obtaining a Speech Generating Device and that the SLP is readily available for training and implementation.
- 4.) Introduce the AAC system:
 - a. Providing access to a robust AAC system is an important step in the overall evaluation process. There are no prerequisite skills for AAC, and we must presume competence with all individuals who demonstrate complex communication needs. The best way to determine the right communication system and promote language development is to introduce high-tech AAC as soon as possible!

References:

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