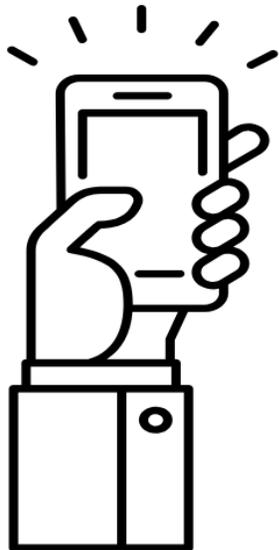


# **Myths and Misconceptions about AAC**

**Common fears and why they don't  
add up**



## **1** Myth: AAC should be the last resort

- When a child is not able to communicate they are at risk for cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral problems.
- AAC therapy is language therapy you are working on developing language skills as you teach AAC.

2

## Myth: My child won't talk if they use AAC

- Verbal speech is easier and faster
- AAC has been shown to increase verbal output



**3**

## **Myth: My kid isn't ready for AAC**



Low tech or high tech



Communication is a right for everyone including individuals with most severe cognitive disabilities



According to the ASHA “currently accepted evidence in the literature suggests that no specific skills are prerequisite for successful use of AAC in the broadest sense. AAC is an intervention approach that can be the beginning of communication development for an individual. A number of AAC options are available to begin the intervention process.”

**4**

## **Concern: He'll look so different from everyone else**



Language informs other's perceptions about our thoughts and abilities

Abundance of technology

Acceptance for AAC is increasing

## **5** **Myth: She's too low functioning for a device**



- AAC is individualized and adaptable to different needs.
- A good system should increase his/her ability to communicate with more people and in more places.
- Good AAC intervention promotes language and cognitive development and lays the groundwork for literacy
- AAC intervention can increase vocabulary in young children

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