



What is AAC

AAC is a broad term that encompasses a wide variety of options you and your children can use to develop language skills



AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)

Tools we love can include:

- speech generating devices
- core or topic boards
- visual checklists
- choice boards
- Picture Exchange
Communication System
(PECS)
- signs and gestures
- facial expression, hand
gestures, body posture

AAC

AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

AUGMENTATIVE: tools that are used to augment, or increase, communication. These are tools that we use with our kids who have some verbal language, but not quite enough to get their needs met or not enough language to learn new concepts.

ALTERNATIVE: In contrast to augmentative, alternative communication serves to replace verbal speech. We consider a method alternative communication when our kids don't have any verbal language or have significantly limited verbal language (think only a few words or scripted phrases).

It is important to understand all of these options are available and important. We all communicate in many different ways, we want to offer our kids the choice to communicate in many different ways as well.

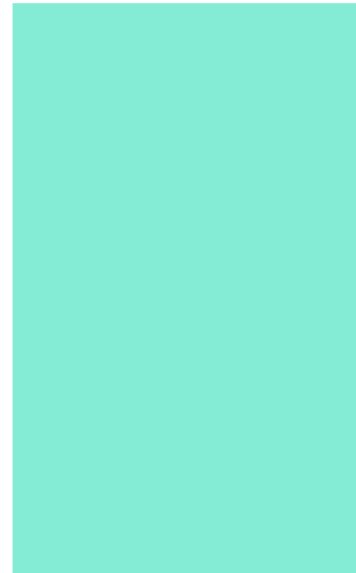
Creating Competency

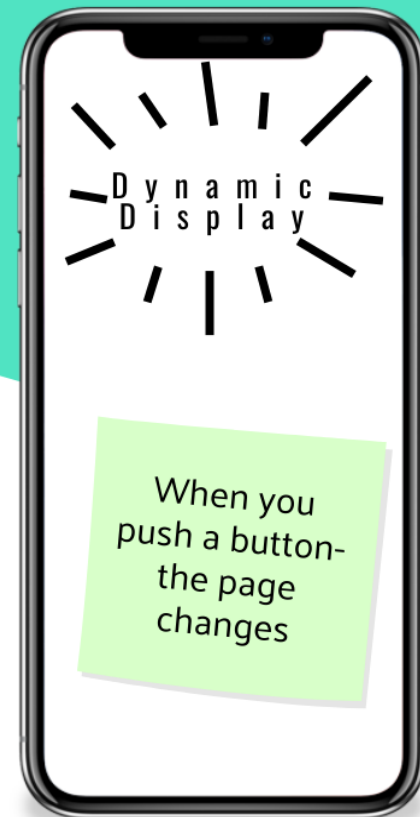
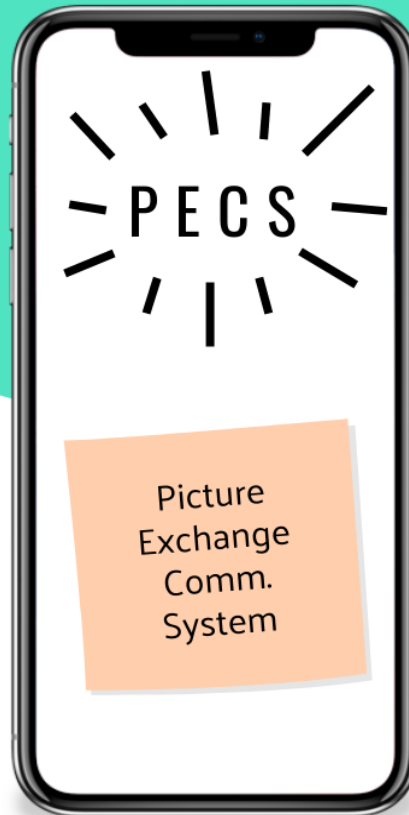
Different Messages- Different options

- When looking at developing communicative competence we want to give our kids as many options as possible to get their point across.
- Don't shy away from teaching gestures, verbal language, speech generating devices, and using choice boards together.

But they don't have volcano?

- Often times we get stuck in the mentality that the device is the best. Before you, or your child's team, spend countless hours programming every word he/she might need to say into their device, take a minute to think about how valuable that word really is.
- Can you make a communication board for your trip to Disneyland? What about a reading companion and a core board for shared reading in the classroom.





**A few terms
that tend to
come up**



What is AAC?



Anything that adds to (augments) or replaces (alternative) verbal speech.



Gestures-pictures-speech generating devices-icons-symbols-one message buttons



Don't be afraid to mix it up. We want to use all of our options to allow our kids the best chance a communicating with us.

Resources

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Retrieved November 17, 2019, from <https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589942773&ion>. ACCESS HERE

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). (n.d.). Retrieved November 17, 2019, from <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/AAC/>. ACCESS HERE

What is AAC? (n.d.). Retrieved November 17, 2019, from <https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac/what-is-aac>.