



Supporting Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) at Home

5 Tips

1. Find your team

- Ask your child's IEP team for support including pictures and/or videos of them using the device at school so you can see how they are using it
- Ask family members and friends to learn along with you
- Connect with others via social media

2. Get Comfortable

- Helpful things to know about your child's AAC tool
 - How to turn it on/off
 - Volume control
 - Does it need batteries or charging
 - How to record or program new words
 - Where to find your child's favorite things
- How to learn
 - Explore on your own
 - Try to find words your child uses often
 - Try singing a favorite song or saying a line from a movie your child enjoys
 - Ask staff for videos of them using the device

3. Customize

- Things that can be customized
 - Skin tone, voice, pictures of people, icons
- How to customize
 - Ask a team member to show you how
 - Request things be changed/added
 - How to tutorials on youtube/company's website

4. Accept all forms of communication

- Encourage your child to use their device
- Accept gestures, vocalizations, pointing, body language, without requiring your child use the device

5. Model

- Model complete messages
- Let the device speak first
- Model for connection , not correction
- Model through mistakes
- Steps for AAC Modeling
 - Join in or invite attention
 - Model a complete message using AAC
 - Wait
 - Recognize any response as their turn
 - Model again if there's no response
 - End when the child ends it

Resources

1. Stepping into AAC <https://www.angelman.org/stepping-into-aac/>

- online course for parents/caregivers
- includes activities, resources, and videos



2. Building Blocks to Autonomous Communication

<https://www.altshift.education/professional-learning/online-modules/building-blocks-autonomous-communication-bbtac>

- online modules for educators and parents/family members
- includes activities, resources, and videos



3. Michigan Disability Rights Coalition <https://mymdrc.org>

- assistive technology lending library
- at-home device demonstrations
- assistance with funding
- online webinars

