

# Myths and Benefits of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Adapted from: Ronski, M. and Sevick, R. (2005) Augmentative communication and early intervention: Myths and realities. *Infants and Young Children, 18(3),174-185.*

## Early intervention in best!

Putting strategies in place before communication breakdown provides the best results! AAC is not a "last resort"!

AAC enhances communication, academic, and social development

## AAC does not stop or delay speech development!

Research shows that children who use AAC show more improvement in speech and language skills than those who do not use AAC

When children are able, they will naturally replace AAC strategies with speech

AAC can be used simultaneously with speech- it is not one or the other!

## Everyone can use AAC!

There are no prerequisite skills: AAC allows children to develop and strengthen communication skills as they learn and are reinforced

## AAC allows for social participation!

Children who use AAC have increased social interaction, social closeness, and social roles within the family and community

## AAC reduces stress!

Children and their caregivers often report reduced physical and emotional stress when AAC strategies are used

## AAC doesn't have to be expensive!

There are a wide range of materials and devices available for use

Several programs are available that offset the cost of equipment

## AAC can be used at any age!

No one is too young or old!

Strategies and devices can be changed as the child grows and his/her needs and environments change