

Rules for Communicating with an Individual Using AAC

1. Communication can be anything!



Support and respond to all communication attempts.
Communication may be in the form of speech, gestures, and vocalizations.

2. Speak for yourself.



Allow the individual to offer their own response, wait for the individual to respond, then shape or encourage use of communication strategies if needed.

3. Ask open ended questions.



Don't limit the individual to only yes/no responses because they are a quick response that is easier to understand. It doesn't allow the individual to fully express themselves.

4. Use wait time AND appropriate prompting.



Allow enough time for the individual to process questions and generate their response.
Be aware of the individual's current level of prompting on skills to avoid over-prompting.
It may be helpful to count to 10 in your head to provide enough time.

5. Make communication happen!



Create environments that support communication. Use visual supports (sentence strips, visual icons, low tech communication boards) and create consistent language expectations built into the context of repetitive tasks (morning meeting, jobs). Model use of the individuals' AAC system to support use in a variety of contexts.