

Live Tele-AAC “Must Dos” For Communication Partner

- Sign on to the video conferencing platform prior to the session to make sure you are able to access the software and have the settings and cameras set up. See cheat sheet provided by the clinician on this.
- Have a conversation with your clinician about what you are picturing tele-AAC to look like and what your role in it will be. Ask questions prior to the sessions and after the sessions. Your feedback will help support the success of the tele-AAC session. If a session didn’t work well or how you were picturing it let the clinician know. There are different ways to do tele-AAC (live, recorded videos that are stored and forwarded, consult, etc.) that work to meet the individual’s needs as well as the communication partner’s needs and the environment.
- Be realistic of your own technology comfort levels as well as your comfort levels with the AAC system. (Complete the Initial Tele-Survey).
- Your role during this session is to support the clinician and the individual’s attention and engagement in the tele-AAC session. You can do this by:
 - Limiting side conversations during the direct tele-session with the clinician. (The clinician and you can set aside the last few minutes of the session to touch base about how the session went, and any questions or concerns you had.)
 - “ Quiet on set” Do your best to limit environmental distractions during the session (both visual, auditorily, and items). Your clinician may have some recommendations for this.
 - Stay positive!! Technology is bound to not work at some point. This is a great time to model how we can easily problem solve and stay calm in time of frustration.
 - Have token boards, visual schedules, dry erase board, or paper and pencil ready to support the individual’s attention and reinforcement schedule.
 - Limit typing or tapping on the table as this will create extra noise during the tele-session.
 - Adjusting the camera angle to better see the AAC System or toggling between cameras/screen. Your clinician will model this, provide cheat sheets, and coach you through this. This is great to practice during your first consult session without the individual present where you can work out some of the questions about the tele-AAC process.