

AAC & Childhood Apraxia of Speech

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)?

- AAC is all of the ways that people communicate besides natural speech.
- AAC systems can be used temporarily or long-term to augment natural speech.
- There are two types:

1) Un-aided AAC - Doesn't require extra tools and/or technology

- No-Tech Examples: gestures, facial expressions, American Sign Language



2) Aided AAC - Requires an additional tool or technology

- Light-Tech Examples: core board, communication books, picture symbols
- Mid-Tech Examples: overlay device, single message button, sequenced message button
- High-Tech Examples: iPad with AAC app, dedicated devices

It is important to introduce some form of AAC while simultaneously focusing on natural speech for individuals with CAS (Romski & Sevcik, 2005).

What is the dual paradigm Approach?

- "The dual paradigm approach serves as a bridge, facilitating simultaneous focus on natural speech and AAC strategies, aiming to not only improve natural speech skills but also overall communication skills." (Oommen & McCarth, 2014)
- The Dual Paradigm Approach can be an effective treatment strategy for individuals with childhood apraxia of speech. (Oommen & McCarth, 2014)

Myth: AAC will stop my child from speaking.

- Cumley and Swanson (1999) observed that multimodal intervention strategies, which incorporated different AAC systems, successfully improved natural speech skills in children with CAS.
- Not only did these strategies improve natural speech skills, but they also improved language learning, communication skills, and academic performance for these children.

Reach out to your speech-language pathologist if you have questions about AAC or want to trial different options.