

October is AAC Awareness Month

What is Augmentative and Alternative Communication?

AAC is used when someone is unable to communicate effectively and completely using verbal speech. AAC includes all the ways we share our ideas and feelings, and express our thoughts without talking. There are many types of AAC including unaided forms of communication such as gestures, facial expressions, and sign language, as well as aided forms of communication, including communication picture boards and books, communication apps, computers and speech generated devices.

Choosing an AAC system is dependent upon many factors including visual and motor skills, as well as the language needs of each child. Speech therapists often use a combination of communication strategies (ex. Pairing pictures or gestures with spoken words) during therapy activities to fully engage each student and encourage expression.

**"Just Because I Can't Speak,
Doesn't Mean I Don't Have Anything to Say"**