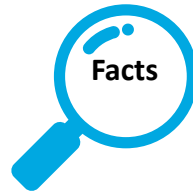


AAC Myths and Facts

Myth #1

AAC will reduce a child's motivation to improve natural speech and will hinder language development.

AAC should only be introduced after the ability to use natural speech has been completely ruled out.



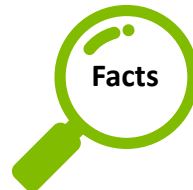
The use of AAC does not affect motivation to use natural speech and can, in fact, help improve natural speech when therapy focuses simultaneously on natural speech development and use of AAC in a multimodal approach.
(Miller, Light, & Schlosser, 2006; Sedey, Rosin, & Miller, 1991)

Intervention for minimally verbal school-age children with ASD that included use of an SGD increased spontaneous output and use of novel utterances compared with the same interventions that did not include the use of an SGD.
(Kasar et al., 2014)

AAC can help decrease the frequency of challenging behaviors that may arise from frustration or communication breakdowns.
(Carr & Durand, 1985; Drager, Light, & McNaughton, 2010; Mirenda, 1997; Robinson & Owens, 1995)

Myth #2

Young children aren't ready for AAC until they are school age.

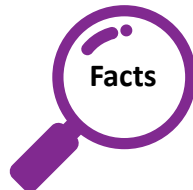


Early implementation of AAC can aid in the development of natural speech and language (Luke, 2014; Ronski et al., 2010; Wright, Kaiser, Reikowsky, & Roberts, 2013) and can increase vocabulary for children ages 3 years and younger.
(Ronski, Sevcik, Barton-Hulsey, & Whitmore, 2015)

AAC use with preschool-age children has been associated with increased use of multi-symbol utterances and development of grammar.

Myth #3

Children must demonstrate cause and effect before AAC is considered



Measures of pre-communicative cognitive ability may be invalid for some populations, and research suggests that impaired cognition does not preclude communication.
(Kangas & Lloyd, 1988; Zangari & Kangas, 1997)

Development of language skills can lead to functional cognitive gains.
(Goossens', 1989)

AAC intervention for children with complex communication needs helps develop functional communication skills, promotes cognitive development, provides a foundation for literacy development, and improves social communication.
(Drager et al., 2010)