Spring Region 2 & 3 ATN Meeting
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Considerations for AAC Implementation

- Different modes of communication used in combination
- Want an individual to be maximally intelligible and comprehensible to the broadest audience

- Core vocabulary - small set of high frequency words that are applicable to all topics and environments
- Fringe vocabulary - large set of low frequency words that are limited to specific topics and environments

AAC is a system and not a single solution.

Vocabulary selection should utilize core and fringe vocabulary principles.

Include multiple communicative competencies.

- Linguistic
- Operational
- Social
- Strategic

There is a broad range of communication partners.

- Lifelong communication partners
- Close friends and relatives
  - Acquaintances
  - Paid workers
- Unfamiliar partners

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Bridging the Gap with AAC Group Intervention

• **Session Activities** –
  • Greeting, attendance, crafts, Show and Tell, cooking, snack time, gossip time, class survey, class jobs

• **Targeted Skills** –
  • Increased self-initiation of requests, comments, terminations, and greetings
  • Conversational participation with turn-taking
  • Decreased communication directed at the adults in the room by having participants take roles in the activities
  • Slow and sustainable changes

• **Strategies** –
  • Props and visual supports
  • Talking for points
  • Consistent vocabulary
  • Advanced notice to caregivers regarding goals of treatment
  • Training to caregivers regarding his or her role
  • Varied spectrum of spontaneity
  • Unexpected communication breakdown and opportunities to repair

• **Future Considerations** –
  • Decrease transitions
  • Increased duration of treatment
  • Opportunities for caregiver observation or review of video
  • OT involvement
  • Behavioral health and counseling involvement
  • Need for community support due to caregiver burden
    • Caregiver stress is related to:
      • Caring for a child with a disability for not the child’s level of functioning
      • Income and time
      • Social support and societal influences
      • AAC system speed, vocabulary, and possible malfunctioning
      • AAC cost and accessibility
      • Limited AAC training
Resources and References


