

### Who is a candidate for AAC?

- Anyone who is having trouble communicating.

### Unaided AAC (no-tech AAC)

- Use your own body to aid communication. For example:
  - Using pointing, gestures, or signs.
  - Blinking eyes for “yes” and no response for “no”.
  - Facial expressions.
  - Body language.

### Aided AAC

- Low-tech: no power source. For example:
  - Objects.
  - Images, pictures, or photographs.
  - Writing or drawing.
  - Communication boards or books.
- Mid-tech AAC: power source but limited features. For example:
  - Attainment’s GoTalk devices.
  - Logan ProxTalker.
  - QuickTalker 23.
- High-tech AAC: electronic devices with extensive features.
  - Features may include (among others):
    - Customizable dynamic displays,
    - High capacity for stored messages,
    - Ability to create novel messages, and
    - Rate enhancing features.
  - Some well-known vendors:
    - LC Technologies.
    - Lingraphica.
    - PRC (Prentke Romich Company).
    - Saltillo.
    - Tobii Dynavox.

## Access methods

- Direct touch, stylus, mouse, or joystick.
- Head-mounted stick or laser pointer.
- Direct touch, proximity, or EMG switches.
- Brain-controlled interface.
- Partner-assisted scanning.
- Eye-gaze direct selection.

## Outline of an AAC evaluation

- Get to know your patient (one size doesn't fit all!).
  - Current communication abilities and unmet needs.
  - Cognitive, sensory, and motor skills and limitations.
  - Anticipated changes over time.
  - Attitude towards AAC.
  - Support system available.
- Assessment tools.
  - Interview and observation.
  - Standardized tools for speech, language, voice, and pragmatics.
  - Questionnaires.
  - Language sample.
- AAC evaluations are a team effort.
  - Vision and hearing status from recent assessments.
  - OT and PT expertise for low vision, improving physical access, and positioning.
- Try several AAC options.
  - Obtain devices from a vendor, your state AT program, Ablenet, or other area programs.
  - Assess how well your patient can access and use each device to communicate.
- Select the best option and be sure your patient and their family agree!
- Write a funding report, if required. AACFundingHelp.com has a free [AAC Report Coach](#).

## After the AAC evaluation: Training is extremely important.

- Our job isn't done until our patient is using the AAC solution(s) in their daily life.

## You don't have to be an expert to be effective.

- SLPs are communication problem-solvers. Each new thing we learn is one more tool that we can use to help someone.

**Find more information in the post:** <https://eatspeakthink.com/aac-evaluations-in-the-home>.