

AAC MYTHS AND REALITIES

IN EARLY INTERVENTION

MYTH	REALITY
AAC is a last resort in speech-language intervention.	AAC should be used to prevent communication failure BEFORE it happens, not after all else fails.
AAC hinders or stops speech development.	Studies show that AAC does not prevent, and may even enhance speech development.
Children must have a certain set of skills to be able to benefit from AAC.	Children may not be able to demonstrate all their skills without first having a means of communication.
Speech-generating AAC devices are only for children with intact cognition.	Speech-generating AAC devices can be as simple as a single switch or button.
Children have to be a certain age to benefit from AAC.	Success with AAC use does not depend on age.
Children must go through a hierarchy of learning how symbols represent meaning, starting with objects and progressing to written words.	In early language development, children have not established representations of meaning yet, so they can make new associations between objects and other symbols.

Adapted from: Ronski, M., & Sevcik, R.A. (2005). Augmentative Communication and Early Intervention: Myths and Realities. *Infants and Young Children*, 18(3), 174-185.