

AAC Everywhere



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A common barrier to communication success is having access to a robust system when it is needed.

Why is this important?

Communication happens everywhere.

- *In class,*
 - *in the toilet,*
 - *on the playground,*
 - *in bed,*
 - *in the bath...*
 - *wherever we think of something to say.*
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For those who rely on AAC to communicate, it is essential that they have access to their system everywhere they go.

We don't leave our voices behind, nor should they have to.

Supporting someone to have access to a voice that needs to be carried might involve some extra planning.



“We need to look at every aspect of our lives, from the time we wake up in the morning, until we get up the following morning. We need to be able to communicate 24/7 like so-called “normal” speaking people do”

Pistorius, 2004, AAC user

Make it portable

If there are concerns that someone’s AAC system will be damaged, this needs to be thought of as an opportunity rather than a barrier.

Consider:

- *Waterproof cases*
 - *Tearproof paper*
 - *Laminating*
 - *Straps*
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Consider:

- *Wrist bands*
 - *Request cards*
 - *Information cards*
 - *Single message buttons*
 - *An unaided signal (e.g., waving hand)*
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The 5-Second Rule

Conversations move on very quickly.

Aim for it to take no more than 5 seconds to get your hands on the AAC device or system you are using.

If it takes longer, then the communication opportunity is likely to be gone.



Plan for AAC to be everywhere

It can be helpful to plan ahead to make sure AAC is accessible at all times.

In the planning process, consider:

- *Where does the individual go*
 - *Is AAC currently taken*
 - *What is the barrier / what helps this happen*
 - *Options to try make AAC available*
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For more information

For more information visit our website: *Telethon: Country Kids Communicate* (indigosolutions.org.au)¹

Download this as a PDF document: *AAC Everywhere*²

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References

Pistorius, M. (2004). Total communication. *Alternatively Speaking*, 7(1), 3–4.

¹<https://www.indigosolutions.org.au/our-services/services-for-schools/telethon-country-kids-communicate>

²https://www.indigosolutions.org.au/docs/default-source/telethon-resource-sheets/01_aaceverywhere.pdf

³<mailto:help@indigosolution.org.au>