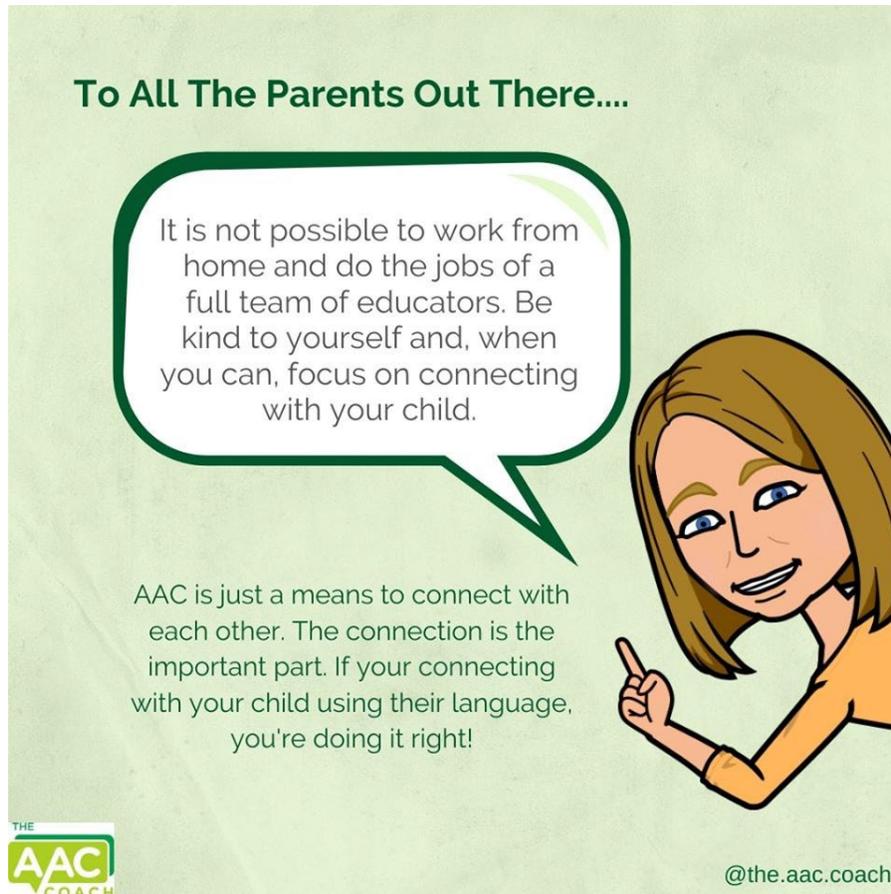




## Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)



Source: @the.aac.coach

### What is AAC?

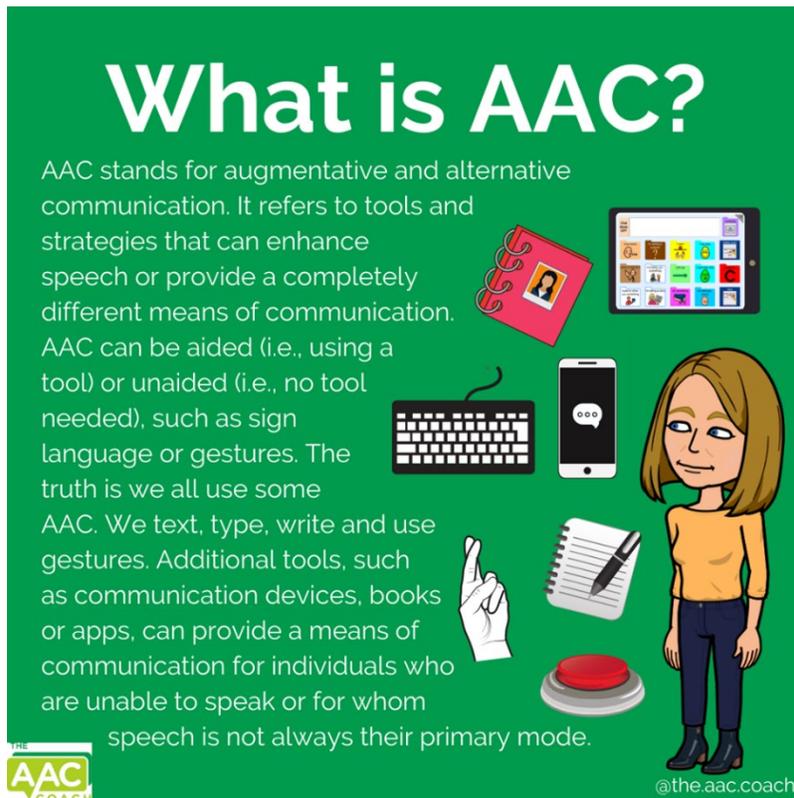
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) includes all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. AAC includes the use of signs, gestures, communication boards, and voice output communication aids. AAC can be low tech or high tech with no voice output or voice output.

- 12 % of children receiving special education services have complex communication needs (CCN) and AAC is required (Binger & Light, 2006).
- Children who use AAC have various diagnoses, which may include autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, traumatic brain injury, apraxia, and multiple disabilities.



- It is important to note that the prevalence of children with complex communication needs is increasing (Light & McNaughton, 2012).

Source: <https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac/what-is-aac>



Source: This picture is from The AAC Coach. For additional information from this site, go to <https://www.facebook.com/theaaccoach/>

## Communication Bill of Rights

The Communication Bill of Rights outlines specific communication rights that should be ensured in ALL daily interactions involving persons who have complex communication needs.

The Communication Bill of Rights was initially passed in 1992 and a reprioritized version was passed in 2016. The reprioritized version has been provided below for you to review.



Video Link: [The Importance of the Communication Bill of Rights](#)

**Communication Bill of Rights**

to be given real choices

to say no, refuse and reject choices

to ask for what I want

to share my feelings

to be heard and responded to even if the answer is no

to ask for and get attention and interaction

to have and use my speech system all the time

ask and know about my schedule and world

SCHEDULE	
1.	bus
2.	reading
3.	math
4.	lunch
5.	recess

to be taught how to communicate

I have the right:

to have my speech system in working order and to have a back up

to be a full and equal member of my community

to be treated with respect and dignity

to be spoken with, not about

to be communicated with in a sensitive manner

From the National Joint Committee for the Communicative Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities. (1992). for meeting the communication needs of persons with severe disabilities. *Asha*, 34(Suppl. 7), 2-3. adapted by K. Al



## Links and Resources

- [Myths and Facts](#)

When starting to use an AAC system with your child, you may have some questions. This is a link to some general information about AAC and answers to some commonly asked questions.

- [PrAACtical AAC](#)

PrAACtical AAC is a terrific online resource. It supports a community of professionals and families who are focused on improving communication and literacy abilities of people with significant disabilities.