



AAC BOOT CAMP

Getting AAC Users COMMUNICATING

regardless of AAC system used (no tech, low tech, high tech) or skill level...



DO this...

MODEL MODEL MODEL

model expected communication behaviors *BEFORE* expecting to see those behaviors from the user

PRESUME COMPETENCE

FOLLOW prompt hierarchy

TEACH language functions

including directing, commenting, requesting assistance, etc.

WAIT 10-20 sec. (w/an expectant look) before re-prompting! Count in your head 1,2,3

PROVIDE CORE WORDS

including verbs & describing words (in addition to nouns)

COLOR CODE parts of speech

KEEP icon placement constant

keep repeated icons in the same location on each page/screen

ALLOW user time to explore and learn the system

MAKE ACC available at all times

PROVIDE Aided Language Input

ASK open-ended question



DON'T do this...

DON'T

expect a user to know how to communicate without direct models & instruction.

DON'T do ALL the talking

DON'T over-prompt

DON'T teach ONLY requesting

DON'T re-prompt too quickly

DON'T provide ONLY nouns

DON'T focus on vocabulary that won't be functional/used tomorrow

DON'T remove the device

DON'T move symbols

DON'T stop all "babbling"
(exploring, button pressing)

DON'T keep the ACC system in their desk, cubbie, or backpack

DON'T expect sentences right away