

Key Terms: Augmentative Alternative Communication Evaluations

- 3 major questions to be answered during an AAC eval:
 1. How can an individual best access the materials or strategies?
 - Generally referred to as “access”
 2. What language system is appropriate?
 3. What materials or devices are most appropriate?
- Dictionary of Key Terms
 - **Access:** how an individual might access the language material. Options include directly selecting with a finger or stylus, using eye gaze, hitting a switch with their hand, head, foot, etc.
 - **Aided Language Stimulation** (also called aided language input): providing language models for AAC users by using their communication system to talk to them. This provides a language model for how the device or system should be used, and also provides validation so that the AAC user isn't the only person communicating without speech.
 - **Core vocabulary:** the relatively small number of words that are used to communicate the majority of messages in a typical communication exchange
 - **Dedicated Systems:** computerized devices that are dedicated to communication only.
 - **DME Benefit:** Stands for Durable Medical Equipment. This is an insurance benefit that may cover the cost of a dedicated communication device.
 - **Dynamic Display:** a display that allows for an AAC user to change the vocabulary / screen by touching a button
 - **Feature matching:** assessing an individual's needs and areas of strength and **matching** them with an ideal access method, language system, and device / system.
 - **Fringe Vocabulary:** high percentage of nouns, a large number of words (tens of thousands), used infrequently, used in a small portion of communication, used in a specific context
 - **High-Tech Communication Strategy:** Speech generating devices with dynamic display
 - **Lite-Tech Communication Strategies:** AAC strategies that require materials, such as pictures, but do not require batteries.
 - **Mid-Tech Communication Strategies:** AAC strategies that may require batteries, and have voice output,
 - **Motor plan:** Similar to how we learn to type or play the piano, our muscles develop memories to help us find items quickly
 - **Open systems:** computerized devices that are used for communication and for other purposes.
 - **VOCA:** Voice Output Communication Aids
- Other Helpful Information:
 - Video further explaining partner assisted scanning:
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGpSXQKrmR4>
 - DME Benefit (stands for Durable Medical Equipment)
 - Speech Generating Devices are categorized in codes called “E-Codes”
 - The following list is from the AAC Institute website, www.aac institute.org

New E Code	Code Description
E2500	Speech generating device, digitized speech, using pre-recorded messages, less than or equal to 8 minutes recording time.
E2502	Speech generating device, digitized speech, using pre-recorded messages, greater than 8 minutes but less or equal to 20 minutes of recording time.
E2504	Speech generating device, digitized speech, using pre-recorded messages, greater than 20 minutes but less than or equal to 40 minutes of recording time.
E2506	Speech generating device, digitized speech, using pre-recorded messages, greater than 40 minutes of recording time.
E2508	Speech generating device, synthesized speech, requiring message formulation by spelling and access by physical contact with the device.
E2510	Speech generating device, synthesized speech, permitting multiple methods of message formulation and multiple methods of device access.
E2511	Speech generating software program, for personal computer or personal digital assistant.
E2512	Accessory for speech generating device, mounting system.
E2599	Accessory for speech generating device, not otherwise specified.