




# AAC BOOT CAMP



## Getting AAC Users COMMUNICATING

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

### DON'T do this.....

 **DON'T** expect a user to know how to communicate w/o direct models & instruction


 **DON'T** do ALL the talking

 **DON'T** overprompt

 **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 AAC system in their desk, cubbie, or backpack

 **DON'T** expect sentences right away


### 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!!* 

✓ **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** AAC available at all times

✓ **PROVIDE** Aided Language Input

✓ **ASK** open-ended questions