



Healthcare Providers:

AAC Implementation Strategies

This should be accompanied by *Communication Partners: Introduction to ACC and How You Can Help*

About me:

Full name: _____

Prefers to be called: _____

AAC Devices/System used: _____

My interests and hobbies: _____

Some daily challenges: _____

What is autism:

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. Autism looks different for everyone, and each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges.

What I need you to know to support me:

A good communication partner plays an essential role in helping transition-age youth and adults with autism use AAC confidently and effectively. When communication partners use patience, curiosity and respect, they help AAC users feel heard and confident speaking up in all parts of their lives.

- **Provide pre-visit materials:** Send questions or forms in advance so the patient can prepare responses on their device.
- **Include the AAC in consent discussions:** Ensure that the patient uses their device to ask questions and express agreement or refusal. Support their autonomy.
- **Include AAC in records:** Note in the patient's chart that they use AAC and specify their communication preferences.
- **Schedule extra time:** If possible, give the patient a longer time slot. Allow for extra time be sure they can express their concerns and needs and fully answer all your questions.

Check out these communication tools and materials to assist with communicating in healthcare settings: [Communication Tools and Materials \(Patient-Provider Communication Network\)](#)