



# Day Program 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.

- **Practice functional communication:** Use the device to make real choices (e.g., "Which activity do you want?"), request help or comment on events.
- **Social communication:** Facilitate group interactions where peers can listen and respond to AAC users.
- **Routine opportunities:** Build consistent moments for the person to initiate communication (e.g., greeting staff, ordering lunch).
- **Back-up systems:** Have a low-tech option (like a printed board or communication book) available in case of issues.