

AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC) SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

Step 1

ASSESSMENT

Goal: To determine the best AAC tool, access and/or strategies for the child.

- Set communication goals
- Explore AAC tools, access and/or strategies

Visits can occur virtually, onsite at Holland Bloorview and /or in the community

- **Timing: up to 6 months**

Step 2

a) TRAINING

Goal: To provide training to ensure the child, family and community partners are familiar and comfortable with the AAC tool, access &/or strategies provided

- Set training goals
- Provide child and partner training based on identified goals

Visits can occur virtually, onsite at Holland Bloorview and/or in the community

- **Timing: up to 4 months**

b) HOME/PRACTICE

Goal: To continue practicing use of the AAC tool, access and/or strategies.

- Goals from the training block and/or new goals are set for child, family and community team to work on.

- **Timing: up to 4 months**

FOLLOW-UP VISIT to review progress and determine next steps:

- Re-assessment (**back to step 1**)
Or,
- Extended home practice (**go to step 3**)

Step 3

EXTENDED HOME PRACTICE

Goal: To ensure the AAC tool, access and/or strategies that have been provided, continue to meet the child's current communication needs.

Follow-up Training: During this Extended Home Practice, the family can request up to **four** training sessions if they feel that more support is needed for the current AAC tool, access and /or strategies.

Re-Assessment: During this Extended Home Practice the team may recommend a reassessment (**back to step 1**) if the current AAC tool, access and/or strategies are no longer meeting the child's communication needs.

End of Service: At the end of the Extended Home Practice, the child's file will be closed if the AAC tool, access &/or strategies continue to meet the child's communication needs. Further progress can be supported by the community team.

***If leasing a high tech device, the child's family will be contacted yearly for up to 5 years to confirm the device is continuing to meet the child's needs*

- **Timing: up to 12 months**

GLOSSARY

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC): refers to various methods that help the child who is unable to use speech or whose speech is difficult to understand
- AAC Tools: refers to **what** the child uses to communicate
 - Low-tech communication tool: paper based tools such as choice boards, language boards, books on which you may place symbols and or photos
 - Mid-tech communication tool: devices with paper based displays and recorded speech output
 - Single Message communication tool: devices that can record single messages or a series of messages
 - High- tech communication tool: computerized speech generating devices for storage and retrieval of messages
- AAC Access: refers to **how** the child uses the tool (e.g. direct touch, eye gaze, switches etc.)
- AAC Strategies: refers to the ways we facilitate the use of the AAC tool