

**USSAAC**  
THE VOICE OF AAC

**isaac**  
International Society for  
Augmentative and Alternative Communication



**Attainment  
Company**  
[www.AttainmentCompany.com](http://www.AttainmentCompany.com)

**October 29, 2018**  
**7:00 PM Eastern / 6:00 pm Central**

**Empowering Communication Partners: Practical Ideas to  
Support Individuals with Complex Communication Needs**



# Webinar Logistics

**USSAAC**  
THE VOICE OF AAC

## ASHA CEUs – live webcast

- ▶ Included for USSAAC members; \$25 – non-USSAAC members
- ▶ Participant form and instructions will be posted on USSAAC website within 24-48 hours at <https://ussaac.org/news-events/ceu-information/>
- ▶ Can only receive CEUs for *live* webinar
- ▶ **NOTE:** You need to scan and send participant form to [smeehan8@ku.edu](mailto:smeehan8@ku.edu) by **November 15, 2018**
- ▶ Archived webcasts <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/news/webinars/>
- ▶ Enter questions in the “Question” box. We will answer as time permits.

Supporting people who use AAC  
and their families affected by disasters:  
<https://aacdisasterrelief.recoverys.org/>

The screenshot displays the AAC Disaster Relief website. At the top, the USSAAC logo is visible. The main content area is titled "AAC Disaster Relief" and includes a "Community Admin" button. Below the title, there is a photo of a woman and a child looking at a book. To the right of the photo are three buttons: "I Have A Need", "I Want to Give", and "I Want to Volunteer". Below these buttons are three text boxes explaining the actions: "Get assistance: connect with the goods and services you need.", "Send supplies: connect with people who need them.", and "Lend a hand: connect with people who need your help." Below these is a "Find Resources" button. The bottom section is titled "Emergency Information" and "Community Updates". The "Emergency Information" section includes a "911" link and "Edit Info" and "Post Documents" buttons. The "Community Updates" section features a "Post Updates" button and a "Welcome to AAC Disaster Relief for Hurricane Irma" post. The post includes a "Read More" button and social media sharing icons. At the bottom, there is a "New Site added to address needs of people who use AAC and their family members impacted by Hurricane Irma" post.

### AAC Disaster Relief

Community Admin

**I Have A Need**  
Get assistance:  
connect with the goods  
and services you need.

**I Want to Give**  
Send supplies:  
connect with people  
who need them.

**I Want to Volunteer**  
Lend a hand:  
connect with people  
who need your help.

Locate or suggest donation centers, shelters, and other recovery resources:  
**Find Resources >**

#### Emergency Information

Emergency: 911

[Edit Info](#) [Post Documents](#)

#### Community Updates

Post Updates

**Welcome to AAC Disaster Relief for Hurricane Irma** [Edit](#)

posted 1 day ago by CERV from [Community Emergency Response Volunteers of the Monterey Peninsula](#)

No comments yet • Labels: hurricane irma aac ussaac communication needs

This site assists people with severe speech and language disabilities who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) to enable them to communicate. We are focusing on the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Help us get the word out!

Individuals who use AAC and their family members can request help or sign...

[Read More](#)

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

**New Site added to address needs of people who use AAC and their family members impacted by Hurricane Irma** [Edit](#)



## The USSAAC Webinar Series



SAVE THE DATE! November 5, 2018, 7:00 Eastern (rescheduled)

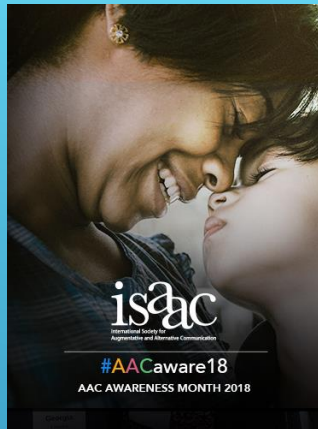
*Tracy Rackensberger, PhD, addresses transitions for people who use AAC.*

*Check back at <https://ussaac.org/news-events/webinars/> for additional details and registration information. Follow USSAAC on Facebook for up-to-date and “breaking” news.*

**Note: USSAAC’s 2019 Membership drive starts November 1, 2018! Renew by December 31 and be entered in a drawing for a free registration to ATIA 2019!**



# AAC Awareness Month 2018 DARE TO LEAD



数字领导 осмеливаться привести  
Ouse Levar Atreverse a Liderar  
Odważ się Prowadzić 数字领导  
נִשְׁמָרָה לְהַדְרִיחַ זְמַן  
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## Dare to Lead

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# Empowering Communication Partners: Practical Ideas to Support Individuals with Complex Communication Needs

**Monday October 29, 2018**

**ISAAC-USSAAC Webinar 6 pm CST**


**Jill Tullman and Joni Nygard**



# Disclosures

Joni is employed by Attainment Company; however, receives no royalties or compensation specific to products.

Jill is self-employed and the owner of Jill Tullman & Associates. Her business receives royalty for a single in-app purchase developed in the field

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# Objectives

Discuss the importance of the Participation Model

Identify 3 differences between individuals who use AAC and their speaking partners


Identify a minimum of 3 strategies to utilize in communication interactions with individuals who use AAC strategies and devices.

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# Participation Model

## Beukelman & Miranda

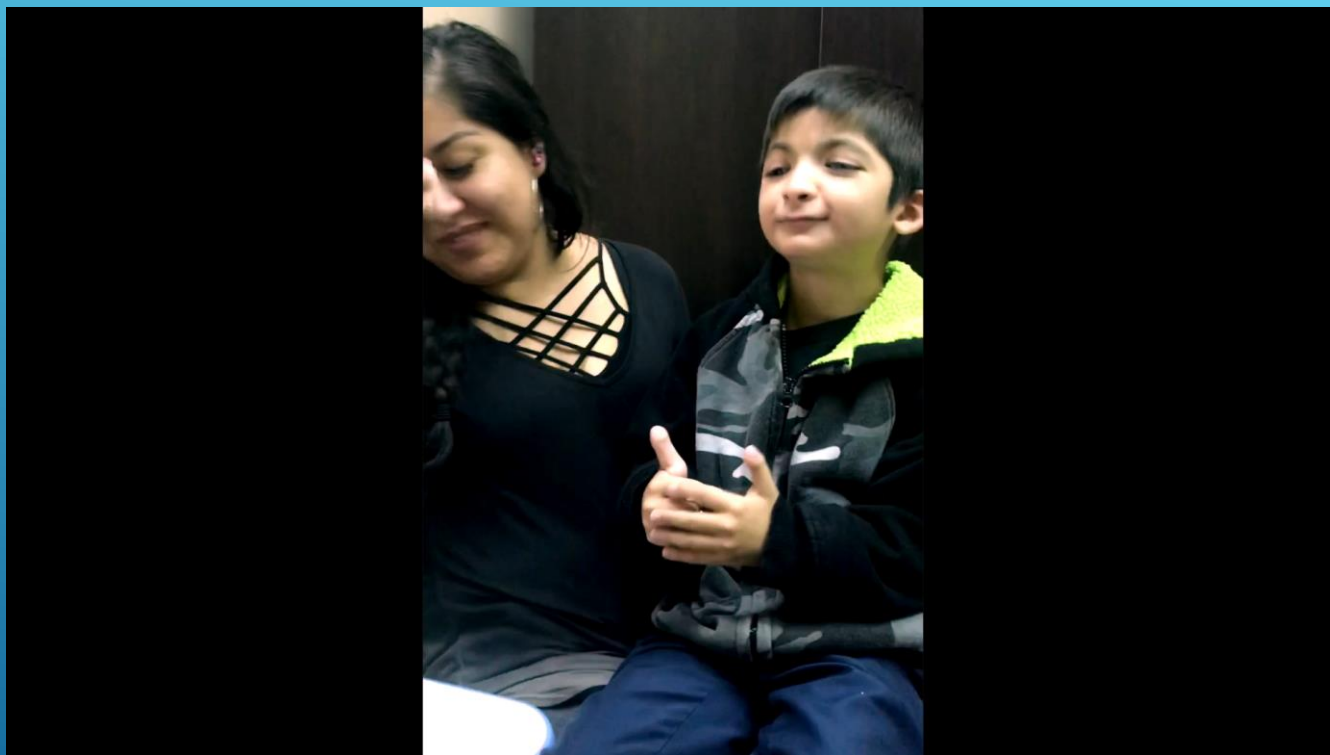
- ▶ The purpose of an AAC intervention is to facilitate meaningful communication and participation in daily life activities.
  - ▶ Systematic process of AAC assessment & interventions based on functional participation requirements of peers without disabilities
- 
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# For Successful Participation

We must assess our

- ▶ Individuals' skills
- ▶ Individuals' needs
- ▶ Individuals' goals






Jesus Before AAC


# For Successful Participation

Then, we can begin to identify Individuals'

- ▶ Support personnel
  - ▶ Tools and apps
  - ▶ Key concepts to be learned in curricula
  - ▶ Vocabulary needed for participation throughout individual's day across environments
- 


# Communication Partners

We need to think about....

- Who are the communication partners?
  - What do the communication partners know about the individual?
  - What are the roles of communication partners
- 
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# Family Members

Lifelong Communication Partners....

- Know how the individual communicates the best!
  - Partnering with family members is critical
- 
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# Nathan


Partners before  
AAC introduced



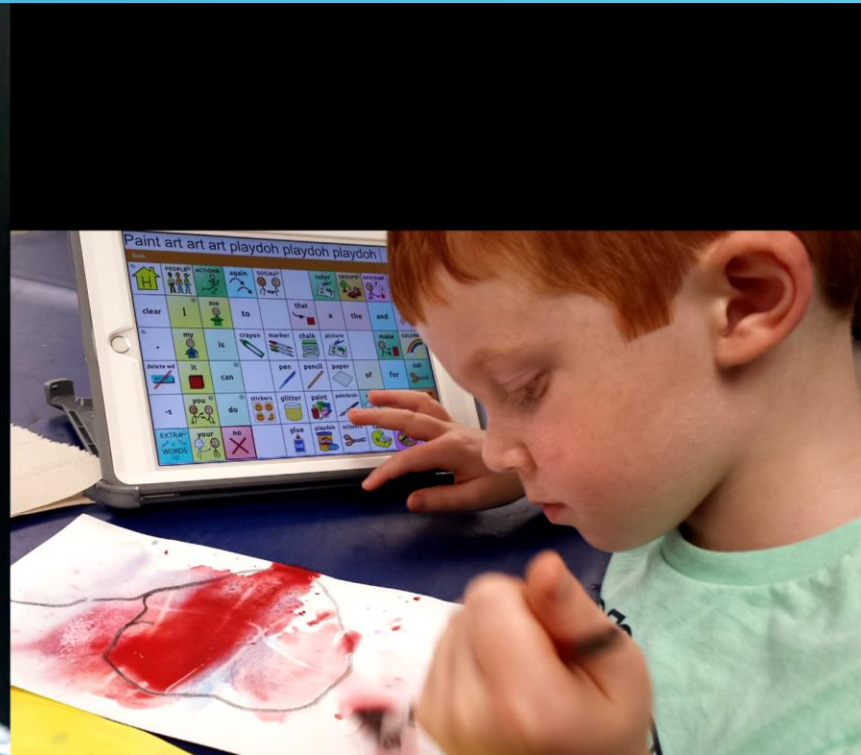
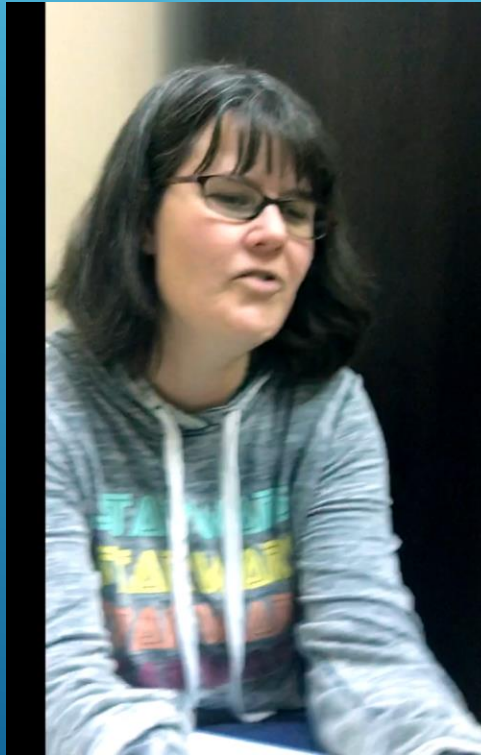


# We must be mindful

## Develop plan

- ▶ Integrate into the individual's daily activities, including curriculum across environments
  - ▶ Shared responsibility for implementation
  - ▶ Acknowledges and supports multi-modal communication
- 
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# Nathan and 1<sup>st</sup> Talker



# Jesus Academically



# We must be mindful

- ▶ Provide opportunities for individuals to use a *variety of tools and strategies*
  - ▶ Identify what works best, when and why
  - ▶ Learning opportunities **FOR ALL** integral to implementation
  - ▶ Partners may need just as much support as the individual with complex communication needs
- 

# Variety of Tools and Strategies



“

Most natural speakers, no matter what their profession, are not prepared to interact with persons who use AAC techniques

”

Sarah Blackstone, SLP, AAC Pioneer

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# Nathan talks to doctor





# Resources

- Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology) Listserv  
[www.qiat.org](http://www.qiat.org)
- AT Profile [www.attainmentcompany.com/at-profile](http://www.attainmentcompany.com/at-profile)
- Social Networks  
[www.attainmentcompany.com/social-networks-package](http://www.attainmentcompany.com/social-networks-package)

# Social Networks

## People who use AAC

- ▶ Play a passive role
- ▶ Rarely initiate interactions
- ▶ Express a limited # of speech acts
- ▶ Use restricted linguistic forms
- ▶ Have limited opportunities to interact with others

## Speaking partners

- ▶ Dominate interactions
- ▶ Ask predominantly yes/no questions
- ▶ Take a majority of conversational turns
- ▶ Provide few opportunities who use AAC to respond
- ▶ Often interrupt
- ▶ Focus on the individual's technology or techniques rather than the person or message
- ▶ Do not always confirm the content of messages

# Modeling, Expanding Language and Wait Time



# Partner Opportunities for meaningful interactions beyond AAC devices



# Peer Partners who use AAC



# Common Practical Solutions

Repeated story lines—Plan for success

Modeling: using system, similar system, video modeling, light tech, aided language input

Wait time

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# Repeated Storyline



# Hungry Caterpillar



# Repeated Storyline



# Therapy Session Wait Time




# More Practical Solutions

'Tell me more'; Language expansion--labeling, commenting, questioning, NOT JUST requesting

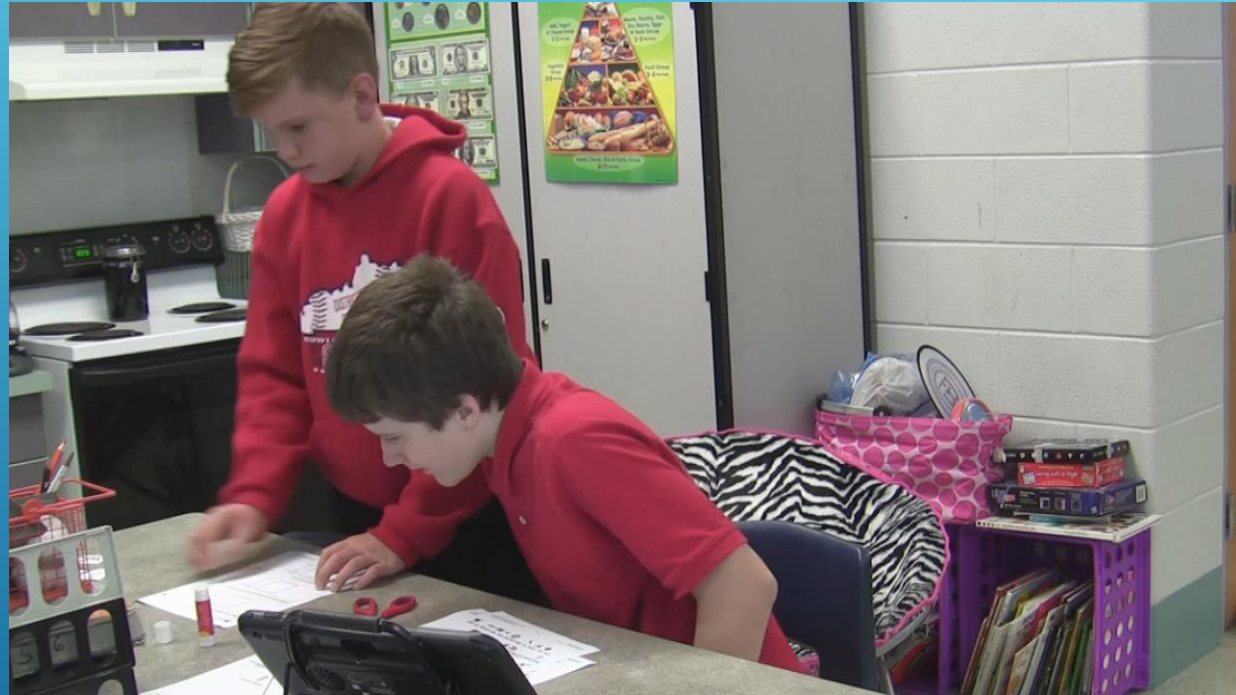
Peer mentoring (peers without disabilities AND peers who communicate using AAC)

Types of questions: avoid yes no questions; asking descriptive questions, not referential;



# JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL –ELA

## Peer Interactions



# Teachers as Partners



# Partner assisted scanning

## Empower Communication Board





Partner Assisted  
Scanning



**Talk about  
Pain**




# Keeping it Real

## Authentic Communication Opportunities And Partners

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# Provide Natural Opportunities for *authentic* communication and active participation

- ▶ Allow and expect individuals to communicate
  - ▶ Support active communication, participation, and literacy
  - ▶ And support communication AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE
- 
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“

If you can dream it, you can do it

”

By Walt Disney

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# Summary: Practical Solutions

Repeated story lines--AAC with young kids

Modeling: using system, similar system, video modeling, light tech, aided language input

Wait time

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# Summary: Practical Solutions

'Tell me more'; Language expansion--labeling, commenting, questioning, NOT JUST requesting

Peer mentoring (peers without disabilities AND peers who communicate using AAC)

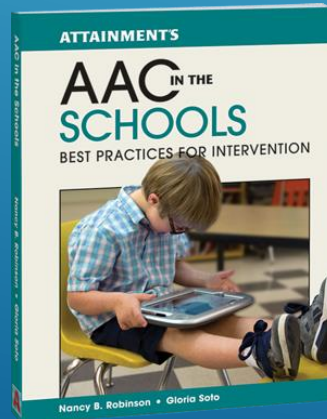
Types of questions: avoid yes no questions; asking descriptive questions, not referential;

# Resources

Augmentative Communication News  
(Dec. 2008 free resource)



AAC in the Schools: Best Practices for Intervention  
(Robinson & Soto 2014)



# Resources

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on AAC

<http://aac-rerc.psu.edu>





# Resources

Jane Farrall

<http://www.janefarrall.com>



PrAACtical AAC

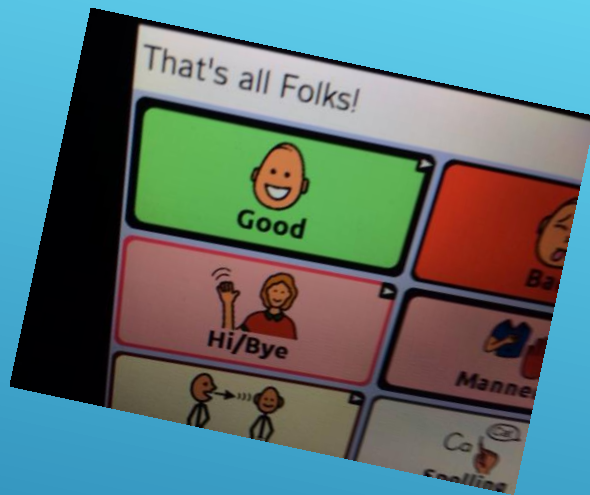
<http://praacticalaac.org>



Teaching Learners with Multiple Special Needs

<http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com>





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# QUESTIONS?



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# HOLD THE DATE



August 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Riviera Maya, Mexico