



ISAAC Virtual Conference 2026

“AAC in Everyday Life: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond”

November 10th and 11th, 2026

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Prepared by the Conference Co-chairs, Program Subcommittee,
ISAAC Research Committee and ISAAC International Executive

1. Introduction

The conference theme for the ISAAC 2026 virtual event is “**AAC in Everyday Life: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond**”. The conference focuses on advancing the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) by exploring cutting-edge research, technology advancements, and inclusive practices.

The event brings together persons who use AAC and their families, researchers, practitioners, engineers, vendors, and advocates to discuss communication access, self-determination, mental health, education, and global perspectives, fostering collaboration and driving meaningful change in the field of AAC.

Through short presentations, interactive sessions, panel discussions, and poster sessions participants will gain insights into cutting-edge research, technological innovations, and real-world applications that empower persons who use AAC worldwide.

2. Dates to Remember

- Online portal opens on May 6th, 2026.
- Online portal closes to NEW submissions on June 19th, 2026 at 10:00 am Toronto time ([click here](#) for world local time zone conversions).
- Notification about the acceptance/rejection of individual submissions will be sent by September 15th, 2026.
- Notification of presentation time, date, and final format of presentation will be communicated by October 15th, 2026.
- Author conference registration to occur no later than October 30th, 2026.

3. Conference Theme and Content Areas for ISAAC Virtual Event 2026

<u>Content Areas</u>	<u>Examples</u>
AAC User-led Perspectives and Lived Experience	User perspectives on all aspects pertaining to development, implementation, and use of AAC
AAC Clinical Practice Across the Lifespan	AAC clinical service provision (assessment, clinical decision making, intervention) across settings (educational, home, health, community) and across the lifespan.
AAC Technology, Design and Innovation	Innovative tools, resources and techniques that advance the field of AAC. Design considerations. AI and machine learning in AAC.
Communication Partner Supports	Family-centred and culturally adapted services, interventions, and practices to support communication partners across settings (families, educators, caregivers, therapists, businesses).
Education, Language and Literacy	Optimizing educational participation, language and literacy development for people who use AAC.
Mental Health, Social, Emotional, and Self-Determination Aspects of using AAC	Best practice for enhancing access to mental health for persons who use AAC. Supporting emotional expression, self-identity, relationship-building, autonomy, and mental health in people who use AAC.
Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in AAC	Culturally responsive AAC practices, bilingual and multilingual AAC, cross-cultural adaptation of AAC systems and interventions, language representation in AAC systems, and equity in access across diverse communities.

<u>Content Areas</u>	<u>Examples</u>
Policy, Advocacy, and Inclusion	Ensuring communication rights, equitable AAC access, and the development of inclusive policies and environments that enhance participation.
AAC Theory, Research and Methodology	Presenting theoretical models for AAC and advancing AAC research through innovative methodologies, interdisciplinary approaches, and evidence-based practices.
Global Perspectives in AAC: Contributions from International AAC Networks	Regional insights and innovations, cultural adaptations, and international collaborations in AAC research and practice.
Telepractice and Remote AAC Implementation	Best practices for virtual AAC assessments, interventions, caregiver support, and expanding access through telehealth.
Access to Health care	Best practice for enhancing access to health care for persons who use AAC.

4. Guidelines for Presentations

Guidelines have been provided to help you decide which format will be most appropriate for your submission to ISAAC 2026 Virtual Conference.

a. Summary of submission format types

For this virtual conference, we are offering four (4) different submission formats for authors to choose from, as follows:

Presentation Format Type	Description
1. Posters	The poster sessions last 60 minutes and include multiple poster presentations (final number per session to be determined by ISAAC and scheduling requirements).
2. Short presentations (30 minutes)	Short sessions on AAC-related topics. Sessions should include audience Q&A (10 minutes).
3. Interactive seminars (60 minutes)	Sessions with practical demonstrations of AAC tools, techniques, or strategies. May include breakout rooms for small group activities and discussions. Should include audience Q&A (10 minutes).
4. Research panel discussions (60–90 minutes)	Group of experts, practitioners, or AAC users discussing key issues, challenges, and solutions. Panels should encourage audience participation through Q&A or polls.

b. Submission Format Type Details

1. *Posters*

The poster sessions last 60 minutes and include multiple poster presentations. The presentation itself should not exceed 8 minutes, leaving 4 minutes for questions. When the poster is presented by a person who uses AAC, the presentation should not exceed 16 minutes, leaving 8 minutes for questions. The poster sessions will have a moderator. If possible, we will try to group posters in the sessions thematically. This cannot be guaranteed, as it depends upon the number of posters submitted. Poster sessions are open for submissions from researchers, students, practitioners, and AAC users, but some of the sessions will be dedicated to students (PhD/Master). If you are a student and submitting a poster, make sure to mark this on your submission. PhD and master students can also make and be part of submissions in the other formats, which include short presentations (30 minutes), interactive seminars (60 minutes), and panel discussions (90 minutes). It is recommended to not include too many slides (4 to 8 is suggested). Please make sure that the slides are accessible to all event participants (see general recommendations below).

2. *Short Presentations*

Short Sessions are 20 minutes in length followed by 10 additional minutes allocated for a question and answer period. The purpose is to share scientific information in the form of recent research findings or ongoing research, or highlight educational, clinical, technical, and professional innovations in an efficient manner. Please make sure that the slides are accessible to all event participants (see general recommendations below).

3. *Interactive seminars*

Interactive Seminars provide more in-depth coverage of topics and create opportunities for discussion and interactive learning. Most of the Interactive Seminars will be 60 minutes in length. This is also the format that may be chosen for sessions involving practical demonstrations of AAC tools, techniques, or strategies. An interactive session may also include breakout rooms where audience can discuss topics and be actively participating. An interactive seminar should include 10 minutes for questions and answers. Please make sure that the slides are accessible to all event participants (see general recommendations below).

4. *Panel discussions*

The purpose of the panel discussions is to create a platform for discussions around conceptual areas of interest in AAC research or practice, including key issues, challenges, and solutions. Panel discussion will offer a forum to discuss in depth the current state of the science and practice, as well as future needs of a specific topic. The panel will include a discussion moderator and 3-4 speakers. The moderator will oversee recruiting the speakers and organizing the discussion. During the event presentation, the moderator will oversee keeping time, engaging the audience, and closing the discussion panel with a brief 5–10 min summary. Panels should encourage audience participation through question and answer (Q&A) sessions or polls. Panel discussions, including any Q & A sessions, polls, and breakout rooms, last 60-90 minutes. All presented material, e.g. PowerPoint and polls, should be accessible to all event participants (see general recommendations below).

5. General recommendations for all presentations

Please make sure that individual presentations are structured with the following requirements / suggestions, as appropriate:

- ✓ A slide with information about any disclosures should be included at the start of the presentation.
- ✓ If the presented research includes human subjects, a statement to acknowledge that ethical guidelines were followed should be included (e.g., “The ethical guidelines as required by the relevant authorities/tertiary institution – please name – have been followed.”).
- ✓ Keep in mind that the presentation should be accessible to all event participants. Please see the ISAAC International webpage relating to [Communication Accessibility for Online Events](#).
- ✓ Use the accessibility tools and guidelines of the program you are using to create your presentation (e.g., PowerPoint).
- ✓ Use a clear, consistent layout to organize the content. Make sure that the specific sections (e.g., background, methods, results, conclusions, and recommendations) are clearly marked.
- ✓ Use high-contrast colour combinations to visually highlight sections.
- ✓ Provide adequate white space and avoid clutter.
- ✓ Use sans serif fonts (e.g., Arial, Calibri) with a minimum font size of 24 pt for body text.
- ✓ Use a combination of text, images, and simple graphs and tables to present the information.

- ✓ Try to keep the text easy to read and concise.
- ✓ Write in bullet format: avoid the use of long, complex sentences.
- ✓ Use plain English, spell out acronyms, and define uncommon terms — keep in mind that our audience is international.
- ✓ Avoid using watermarks.
- ✓ Make sure the images, audio, video, etc can be used without copyright infringement.
- ✓ Include a descriptive caption for all images, graphs, and tables.

6. Selection Criteria

All submissions reviews will be conducted according to blind peer review processes and specific criteria. There is a maximum of 60 sessions available for this year's virtual event, and the total number of submissions accepted will be reflective of this session maximum.

7. ASHA Disclosure Form(s)

ASHA members can gain Continuing Education Unit (CEU) points for attending your presentation.

8. Use of AI

You will be requested to make a statement concerning to which extent the abstract and/or presented research involved the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Abstracts, where it becomes evident during the review process, that were created solely using AI, will not be accepted.