

Beyond Knowing Where to Find Messages on High Tech Augmentative and Alternative Systems

November 18th, 2020

Presenter: **Julie Gatts, M.A., CCC-SLP**

Facilitator: **Stephanie Meehan Ph.D., CCC-SLP**

www.ussaac.org





https://aacdisasterrelief.recovers.org/

AAC Disaster Relief

Community Admin



This site supports individuals who use AAC so they can re-establish their communication. The United States Society for Augmentative Communication (USSAAC) manages the site and is currently focused on the aftermath of hurricane IRMA.

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

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Update Slideshow

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

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

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

Webinar Logistics

ASHA CEUs – live webcast

- Free - USSAAC members;
\$25 – non-USSAAC members
 - Participant form and instructions on website
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Beyond Knowing Where to Find Messages on High Tech Augmentative and Alternative Systems: What Can We do to Increase Use in Social Interactions

USSAAC PRESENTATION

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

JULIE GATTS, M.A., CCC-SLP,

Objectives

1

Identify barriers
that exist

2

Increase
awareness of
barriers

3

Identify ways
to mitigate the
barriers

Levels of Barriers

- ▶ Professional/SLP based barriers
- ▶ Consumer based barriers
- ▶ Communication partner barriers
- ▶ System barriers

Professional Competency in AAC



Consumer Barriers

- ▶ Perception of being different
- ▶ Psychosocial aspects
- ▶ Learned communicative passivity
- ▶ Depression and anxiety

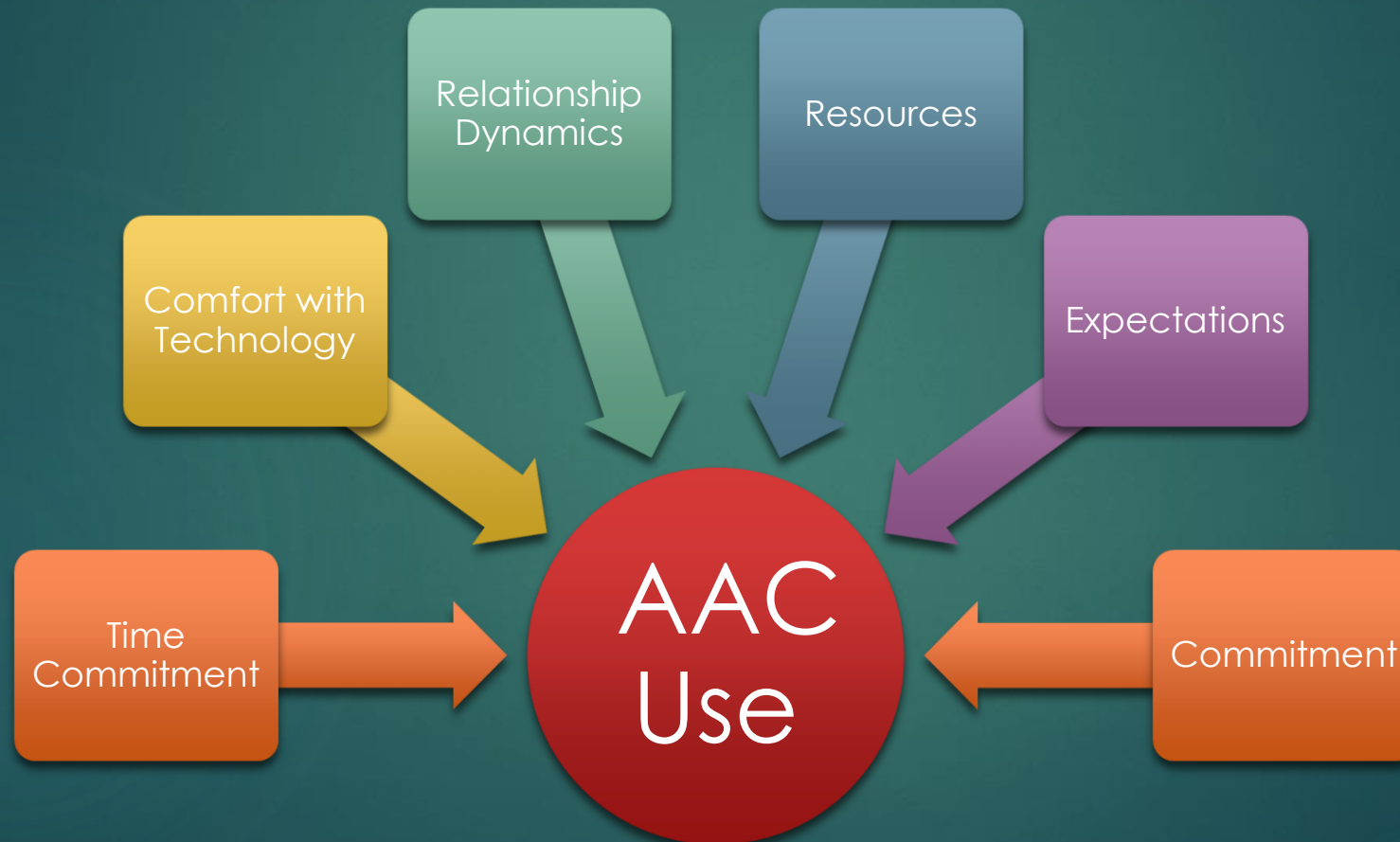
Student Perceptions When Using AAC

- ▶ “People talked to my friend instead of me”
- ▶ “The short social interactions aren’t available so I feel rude”
- ▶ “People hung up on me thinking I was a robocall”
- ▶ “People didn’t wait for me to talk – even my family”
- ▶ “Conversations didn’t last long because it took more effort on my part and their part so we ended our conversation quickly”
- ▶ “I couldn’t find what I wanted to say and if I did, things had already moved on”
- ▶ “My roommate (or family member) knew what I wanted to say so I didn’t really need to finish my thought using the device”
- ▶ “People talked for me and they didn’t always have the right information then I got frustrated”
- ▶ “This was hard”

Common Threads in Student Perceptions

- ▶ They noted their communication partners were uncomfortable
- ▶ Felt pressured to respond quickly
- ▶ Had to plan what they wanted to or needed to say
- ▶ Difficult to be a part of conversation
- ▶ Got the wrong food or drink but didn't advocate for themselves due to the effort
- ▶ Areas that seemed to create the most problems:
 - ▶ Couldn't access messages or content (either because it wasn't there, they didn't know where it was, or they didn't have time)
 - ▶ Time Pressure
 - ▶ People avoided communicating with them
 - ▶ They couldn't be an active participant in conversations

Family, Partners or Care Providers



System Barriers

- ▶ Funding for ongoing therapy
 - ▶ System barriers
 - ▶ Practitioner barrier
- ▶ Funding for repairs
- ▶ Partner training is a long-term investment
- ▶ Turnover



Evidence and Experience

Potential factors influencing successful use

(Taylor, Wallace, and Wallace, 2019)

- ▶ Body Structure or Function Factors
 - ▶ Language Impairment
 - ▶ Cognition
- ▶ Personal Factors
 - ▶ Age
 - ▶ Insight and Expectations
- ▶ Environmental Factors
 - ▶ Social Supports
 - ▶ Therapist Perspectives and Beliefs
 - ▶ Duration and Intensity of Services

Mitigation of Barriers



Assessment



Planning



Implementation

Assessment

Fit the System to the Individual

Language

Cognition

Features



Anticipated Use

Content Areas

Ease of
Programming

Adaptability

Planning



Collaborative

Expectations

Establishment of Outcomes

Education

Use in Natural Contexts

Implementation

Socially Relevant Content

Natural Contexts and Activities

Teamwork

Space for Feelings

User Strategies

Focus on Content Relevant for Social Interaction

- ▶ Relevance
- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ Participation in social roles



Focus on Use and Therapy in Conversational or Natural Context

- ▶ Community work is ideal
- ▶ Conversational interaction
- ▶ Specific events and activities

Teamwork

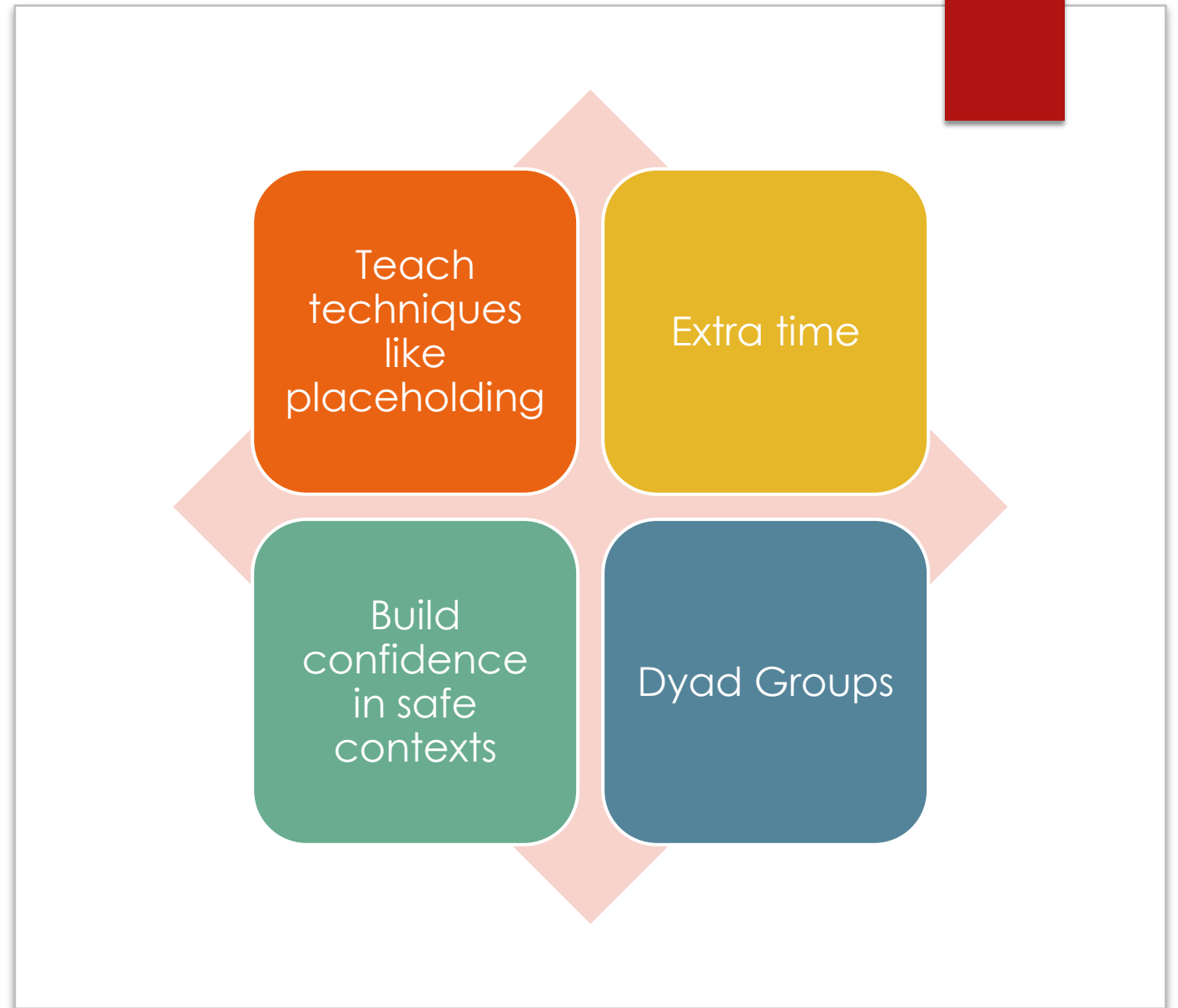
- ▶ Share the Load
 - ▶ Programming
 - ▶ Teaching
 - ▶ Brainstorming



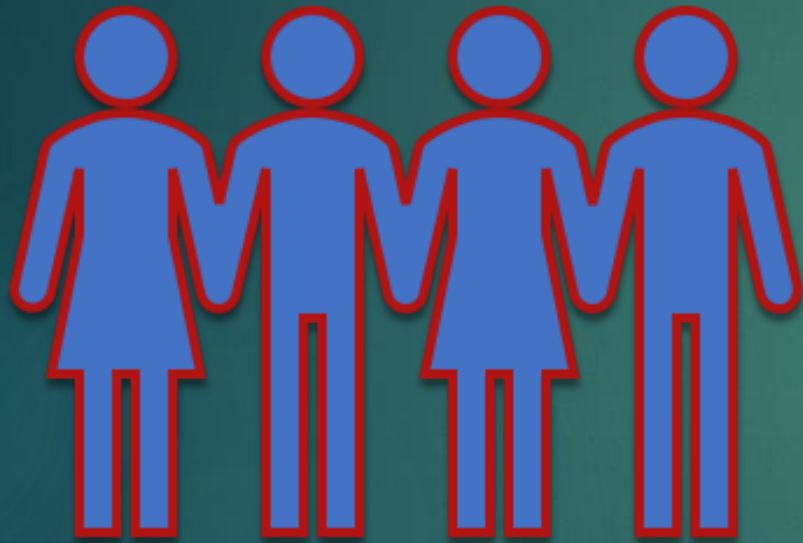
The Elephant in the Room

- ▶ Explicit instruction regarding learned communicative passivity
- ▶ Validate individuals feelings

Strategies to Help With Successful Use



Time Commitment and Expectations



- ▶ This is a journey, not an event
- ▶ It takes time and it takes a team effort
- ▶ Use the individual's social capital to support programming
- ▶ Regularly revisit content and layout
- ▶ Updates and transient information is appropriate
- ▶ People with AAC may tell the same stories over and over again, just like we all do



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International Society for
Augmentative and Alternative Communication



ISAAC is pleased to announce that **ISAAC 2020**, the 19th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, has been rescheduled for 2021. As originally planned, the Conference will be held at the Cancún International Convention Centre (ICC) in beautiful **CANCÚN**, adjoining the Riviera Maya on México's Caribbean coast.

JULY 31 – AUGUST 1, 2021

AAC Camp, Pre-Conference Workshops, Executive and Council Meetings

AUGUST 2 - 5, 2021

Main Conference at the Cancún ICC, México

Surrounded by Mayan culture and with easy access to beautiful beaches, tours, shops and restaurants of both Cancún and the Riviera Maya, the ISAAC conference will feature AAC events and perspectives; cutting edge research and clinical innovations; workshops, seminars, exhibits, social events, and entertainment, all in a unique cultural setting.

**Mark your calendar today, and save
the date for ISAAC 2020 (now 2021) in Mexico!**

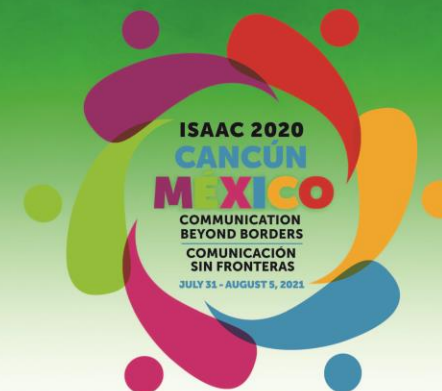
**For more information, visit us at www.isaac-online.org
and follow #ISAAC2020 on Twitter.**

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ISAAC se complace en anunciar que el próximo XIX congreso de la Sociedad Internacional de Comunicación Aumentativa y Alternativa se ha sido reprogramado para 2021. Según lo planeado originalmente, la Conferencia se llevará a cabo en el Centro Internacional de Convenciones (ICC) de la bella ciudad de **CANCÚN**, contigua a la Riviera Maya de la costa del caribe mexicano.

31 DE JULIO - 1 DE AGOSTO, 2021

Campamento de CAA, Talleres Preconferencia, Juntas Ejecutivas y del Consejo

2 - 5 DE AGOSTO, 2021

Congreso principal en el ICC de Cancún, México

Rodeado por la cultura maya y con fácil acceso a playas hermosas, tiendas, restaurants y tours tanto de Cancún como de la Riviera Maya, el congreso de ISAAC contará con eventos de CAA, perspectivas, lo último en investigaciones e innovaciones clínicas, talleres, seminarios, exposiciones de las compañías más importantes, eventos sociales y entretenimiento. Todo en un sitio culturalmente único.

**¡Anótalo en tu calendario y aparta
la fecha para ISAAC 2020 (ahora 2021) en México!**

**Para mayor información, consulta nuestro sitio web www.isaac-online.org
y síguenos en Twitter #ISAAC2020**

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