Communicating During COVID: Tips and Tricks for Successful Use of AAC over Virtual Platforms
Presenter Information

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AAC MODELS
AAC | Models of Telepractice

Direct Therapy
Caregiver Coaching
Caregiver & Team Consultation
Hybrid

From Rachel Madel M.A., CCC-SLP's presentation on PrAACtical AAC
AAC Intervention | Which Model Should I Pick?

**Direct**
- Can maintain attention to session
- Caregiver willing & able to participate
- May be better with established system

**Consultative**
- Established system
- Knowledgeable communication partner
- Building on success

**Coaching**
- Still completing feature matching/customizing system
- Caregiver uncertain of technology or techniques

**Hybrid**
- Can maintain attention
- Caregiver requires ongoing coaching & support
- Can allow for direct time with client & indirect with caregiver
### Setting Expectations

Be clear with parents + communication partners what your session will look like. This is dependent on the type(s) of service delivery models you choose. Tell parents when they will need their child present (e.g. first we will talk for 15 minutes and then we will read a book.

| **LISTEN:** | Ask for updates since last session, review at-home practice, troubleshoot problems, answer questions that came up. |
| **TEACH:** | Choose a mini-lesson, specific strategy or concept to teach or review. Prepare communication partner for session’s activity(s). |
| **COACH:** | Start an activity and help communication partner model on the device or practice facilitating language. |
| **RECAP:** | Ask: How did that go for you? Allow for self-reflection, discussion and planning of at-home practice. Give insight into next session targets. |

From [Rachel Madel M.A., CCC-SLP's presentation on PrAACtical AAC](https://example.com)
Tips for Success | Set Expectations

Before
• SLP chooses target words & a repeatable activity to demonstrate

During
• SLP demonstrates where word is
• SLP leads activity first time & shows modeling of word
• SLP encourages caregiver to model second time & provides feedback

After
• SLP & caregiver decide on practice before next session together
Tips for Success | Set Expectations

**Before**
- SLP chooses HEAR

**During**
- SLP reads Polar Bear, Polar Bear
- Parent reads Polar Bear, Polar Bear/ Leads Old Macdonald

**After**
- Parent decides to talk about what they HEAR on daily walks
Tips for Success | Practice

• Set up a practice room and work with your SLP or parents to get used to functions
  – Zoom
  – Google Meet

• Use tele-platform resources for learning and troubleshooting
Tips for Success | Modeling

- Video or pathway to vocabulary
- Create shared goals for vocabulary to be modeled
- Visual cues to find vocabulary
- Use built-in features
Tips for Success | Modeling

- Visual Cue Examples
Tips for Success | Modeling

Monday Modeling Tip: Word Finder
Tips for Success | Modeling

tips for slps
PARENT COACHING
wait
time

@rachelmadeislp
Tips for Success | Maximizing Attention

• Identify motivators before the session
  – Complete a Reinforcement Inventory

• Plan session to occur during daily routines
  – Meal times
  – Outside play
Tips for Success | Access to Technology

— Access to Technology

• Contact your vendors!
• Check with your district
• Partner with clinics offering in-person evaluations
• Explore free trials of comparable apps to D-SGD options
• Don't forget about low-tech!
Tips for Success | Access to Technology

- PRC-Saltillo AAC TeleTips
- TobiiDynavox Virtual Assessments
- Talk To Me Technologies Remote Support
- Forbes AAC Teletherapy Assessment Program
- Mount'n Mover Evaluation Kit
- Feature Matching Comparison Chart
- Local district/AT teams for loaner equipment
Tips for Success | Access to Technology

- Saltillo Chat Corner
- PRC Literacy Planner, Active with AAC
- MyTobiiDynavox
- Talk To Me Technologies Lesson Plans, Social Stories, Etc.
- Project Core Lesson Plans
- Tar Heel Game Play
- Tar Heel Reader
FINAL THOUGHTS & RESOURCES
Communication Should be FUN!

Be kind to yourself, your students, & families

You can do this!
AAC Teletherapy | Tips from an AAC User

- Be Patient
- Have a Support Person
- Listen to Family & Individual
- Be Flexible to Use Other Tech Options
References


Additional Resources

- Sarah Gregory’s presentation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goCNhuMALOU&list=PL8_c51K6963dlWYdynqzlS-onpnhaE1K&index=3&t=2963s

- AAC Teletherapy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbPbjfFj378&t=528s

- Rachel Madel’s Presentation: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h_zpv-hENx7Ja1cHcOQLetlEEhusPNXfRBMVUMJKM40/edit#slide=id.g81a84282c0_0_23