## MAY IS SPEECH AND HEARING AWARENESS MONTH

## Spotlight on AAC



"Augmentative and Alternative Communication, also referred to as AAC, is any device, system or method that a person with a communication impairment uses to improve their ability to communicate. All forms of communication (other than oral speech) fall under the umbrella of AAC (eg. body language; pointing; gestures; writing; speech generation devices). An AAC system may be used

person or it may be used to provide a

communicating.

## AAC in the Classroom

Communication skills are

participation in all aspects of school life. Speech-language pathologists and classroom teachers collaborate to select and implement communication goals that

participation in regular learning activities and routines, not just requests for wants and needs.



Oreate Target Activities that are short in duration but occur 3-4 times per week. Facilitate communication initiations by the AAC user. Include a variety of activities e.g., art, reading, lunch, and allow choices throughout the activity. The AAC user needs a reason to perform the

activity. The activity must be motivating, functional, interactive and ageappropriate. Vocabulary needed to participate in the activity must be available in the AAC system. Pre-planning is necessary to ensure the communicative environment is set up for the AAC user s participation.

## **COMMUNICATION** is the GOAL of any Activity

Links: The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC)

PrAACtical AAC| Supports for language learning

Speech and Language Services, 2014