

---Types of AAC---

AAC



Learn more about the types of AAC to support your understanding of this evidence-based practice.

For more information, please visit <https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/>.

UNAIDED COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS:

Does not use any materials or technology, only a motion of your body (e.g., sign language and gestures)

- **Conventional gestures:** Communicative gestures used and understood by most members of a social group. In the United States, these include actions such as shoulder shrugging, head nodding/shaking, pointing, thumbs up/down, and high fives.
- **American Sign Language (ASL):** A complete natural language comprised of facial expressions and hand/finger movements with the same linguistic characteristics of spoken language, often used by the deaf/hard of hearing community.
- **Informal sign use** (for example, "Baby signing"): A set of simple hand gestures and movements designed to enhance communication for children who do not use much or any spoken language. May contain single word signs from ASL but not grammatical aspects of that language. May also include gestures that are unique and only understood by the child and their common communication partners.

LOW-TECH AIDED COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS:

Aided systems that use some type of material or device. They include *low-tech systems* (e.g., exchanging objects/ pictures or pointing to letters) and extend to *mid-tech and high-tech speech generating devices* (SGDs) and applications that allow other devices (i.e., phones, tablets) to serve as SGDs.

- **Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS):** a formal evidence-based system of augmentative communication using picture exchange of standard images that represent words.
- **Communication books & boards:** Object choice board, choice board using photographs of objects/events, communication book using photographs, simple communication board using photographs, or complex communication book using symbols and letters.

SPEECH GENERATING AIDED COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS:

Aided systems that use some type of material or device. They include *low-tech systems* (e.g., exchanging objects/ pictures or pointing to letters) and extend to *mid-tech and high-tech speech generating devices* (SGDs) and applications that allow other devices (i.e., phones, tablets) to serve as SGDs.

- **Communication buttons/switches, Speech generating keyboard, Speech generating communication boards, Speech generating device, Speech generating application on a tablet**