



What is AAC?

Augmentative and Alternative
Communication Basics





What is AAC?



Hello! I'm *Katie*

Katie Wilson graduated from The University of Memphis with a degree in Speech-Language Pathology in 2011. The main focus of her career has been working with students with moderate-severe developmental disabilities, including many students who use AAC to communicate. She is passionate about working with students, families and therapists, to give students the best opportunity for them to reach their fullest potential.



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AAC = augmentative
and alternative
comunication

AUGMENTATIVE



supplements
verbal speech

ALTERNATIVE



instead of
verbal speech



Who benefits from AAC?



AAC can benefit those with

- ✓ Autism
- ✓ Cerebral Palsy
- ✓ Intellectual impairment
- ✓ Developmental language delays
- ✓ Genetic syndromes
- ✓ Apraxia
- ✓ Dysarthria
- ✓ Traumatic brain injury
- ✓ Stroke
- ✓ Tracheostomy





THERE ARE NO
PREREQUISITES
FOR AAC USE





What device options
are out there?





No Tech



Mid Tech



High Tech

No Tech



PECS



Boards

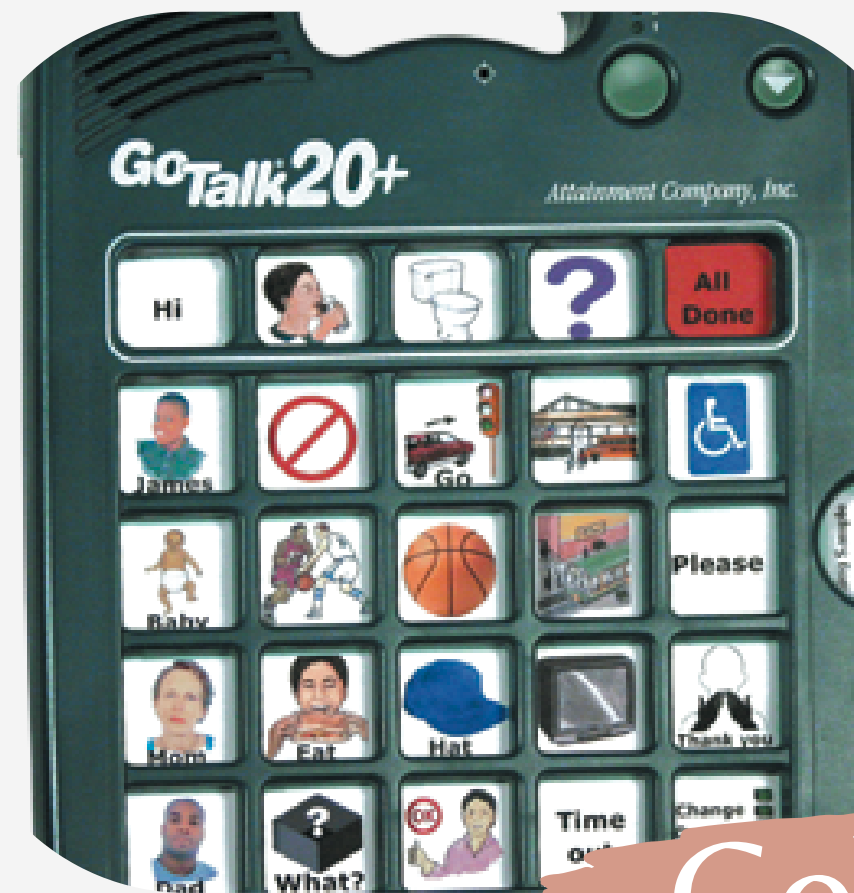


Eye Gaze

Mid Tech



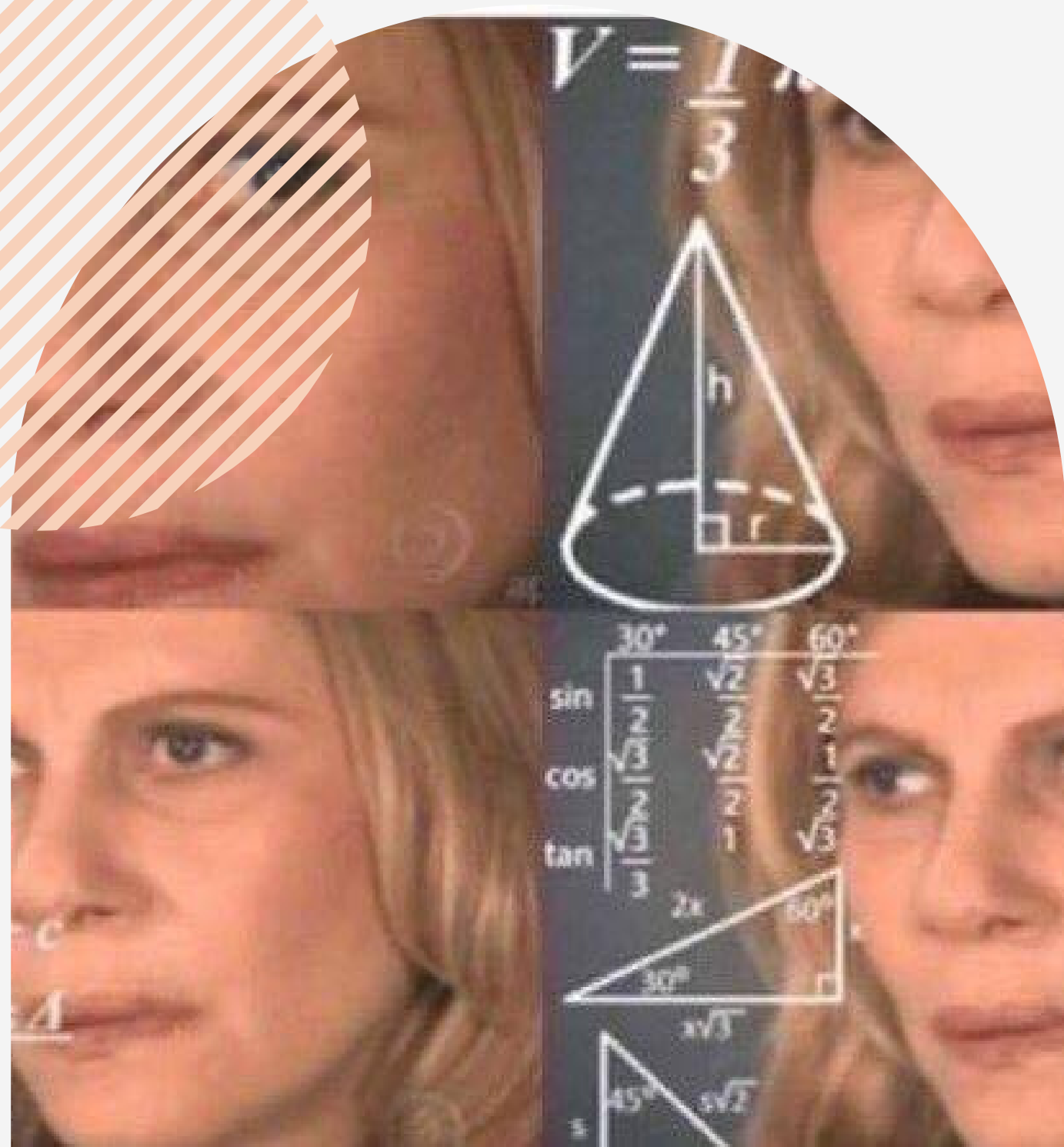
Switches



GoTalk

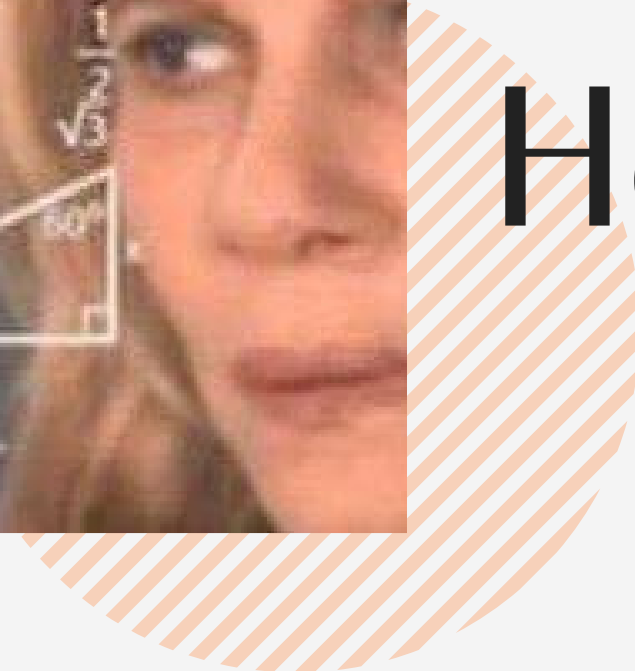


Objects



3

How do you select a device?



SETT Model



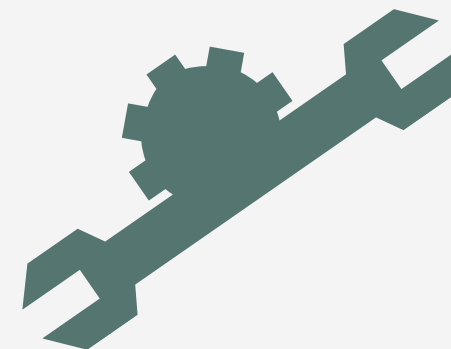
STUDENT



ENVIRONMENT



TASK



TOOLS



STUDENT

- How are they currently communicating?
- What's going well? What's not?
- What is their biggest challenge right now?
- What are their preferences and interests?



ENVIRONMENT

- What access limitations might they have?
- What materials and equipment might be necessary?
- What kind of support will they and their team require?
- What are the expectations of the student and their team?



TASK

- What tasks does the student participate in regularly?
- What tasks would help the student to participate in their daily environment more?



Tools

- Devices
- Services
- Strategies
- Training
- Accommodations
- Modifications



What do AAC
services look like in
SCUSD?

REFERRAL

1

TRAINING

3

ASSESSMENT

2

ONGOING
CONSULTATION

4



Who teaches AAC
users to communicate?



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work



School Staff

- Speech Therapist
- Teacher
- Classroom Staff
- Other Campus Staff
- Other Service Providers



Family

Anyone who communicates with the student on a regular basis.



Peers

Peers are the BEST models we could ask for!

To be given real choices

To say no, refuse & reject choices

To ask for what I want

To share my feelings

To be heard & responded to (even if the answer is no)

To have and use my speech system all the time

Communication

Bill

of

Rights

I have the right:

To ask for and get attention & interaction

To ask & know about my schedule & world

To be taught how to communicate

To have my speech system in working order & to have an alternate

To be a full & equal member of my community

To be treated with respect & dignity

To be spoken with, not about

To be communicated with in a sensitive manner

These rights are summarized from the Communication Bill of Rights put forth in 1992 by the National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities.

Misconception



My child won't talk if they start communicating with a device



My student doesn't pair words together, so they're fine staying with PECS



My student has a lot of behaviors. If they get a device, they'll just break it.

Fact



There is a TON of research to show that AAC supports verbal language growth



We don't know what they're capable of if they only have access to limited vocab



Behaviors are a form of communication. Let's get them a more functional way to communicate!