

MYTHS & FACTS

Augmentative & Alternative Communication



Rogers Bridge
Pediatric Therapy

MYTH #1

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC is only for people who will never be able to speak.

FACT AAC is for anyone with communication difficulties, whether temporary or long-term. Many individuals use AAC as a support while developing verbal speech.



MYTH #2

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC will prevent a child from learning to speak.

FACT AAC often encourages speech development by reducing frustration and helping users build language skills in a structured way.



MYTH #3

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC is a last resort.

FACT AAC can be introduced early to support communication development. It should not be seen as a "last option" but rather a tool to enhance communication abilities.



MYTH #4

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC is only for children.

FACT AAC is used by people of all ages, from young children to adults with communication impairments, due to conditions like autism, cerebral palsy, or stroke.



MYTH #5

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH You need to be tech-savvy to use AAC.

FACT While some AAC devices are high-tech, there are many low-tech options, like picture boards and communication books, that don't require advanced technological skills.



MYTH #6

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC users only use symbols or pictures to communicate.

FACT AAC encompasses various communication forms, including pictures, symbols, text, speech-generating devices, and even eye-tracking technology.



MYTH #7

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC systems are too complicated for young children.

FACT Children as young as 1 or 2 years old can start using simple AAC systems to support early communication and language development.



MYTH #8

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC users don't need to learn social communication skills.

FACT AAC is just a tool; users still need to develop social and communication skills like turn-taking, body language, and using the right tone for different situations.



MYTH #9

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC inhibits verbal skills and may prevent a child from talking.

FACT Many users transition from AAC to verbal speech or reduce reliance on it as their speech and language skills improve.



MYTH #10

Augmentative & Alternative Communication

MYTH AAC is expensive & hard to access.

FACT While some high-tech AAC devices can be costly, there are many affordable or even free options. Many schools and therapy programs offer access to AAC as part of communication interventions. Many insurances cover the cost of a speech device.

