

## Do All Roads Lead to Communicative Competence?

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Core Words      Motor Planning      Language Intervention

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## What is Communicative Competence?

- Goal of language acquisition is communicative competence: the ability to use the language correctly and appropriately to accomplish communication goals.
- In the domain of AAC, Communicative competence is made up of four competence areas: operational, linguistic, social and strategic.

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## Operational Competence

- Learning how to operate/use AAC tools and devices. Our students receive direct instruction to learn how to operate a range of AAC technologies.
- Operation of AAC systems includes both the production of body-based communication behaviors (e.g., gestures, facial expressions) and device-based modes of communication (e.g., operation of low tech communication boards through complex voice output devices).

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## Linguistic Competence

- Knowing how to use the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of a language.
- Linguistic competence asks: What words do I use? How do I put them into phrases and sentences?

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## Social

- Knowing how to use and respond to language appropriately, given the setting, the topic, and the relationships among the people communicating.
- Social competence asks:
  - How are words, phrases and sentences put together to create conversations, speeches, email messages, newspaper articles?
  - How do I engage in a dialogue
  - Rules of Discourse and Pragmatic Functions

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## Strategic Competence

- Knowing how to recognize and repair communication breakdowns, how to work around gaps in one's knowledge of the language, and how to learn more about the language and in the context.
- Strategic competence asks:
  - How do I know when I've misunderstood or when someone has misunderstood me?
  - When do I use my device vs signs, gestures
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### It's a long, hard road ....



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### Looking for the best solution



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### AAC Tools and Approaches

- Signs, Gestures, Eye-gaze
- PECS
- Tobii DynaVox, PRC, Saltillo
- Motor Planning ... LAMP
- Proloquo2Go
- Unity
- Gateway
- WordPower
- Impaired Speech



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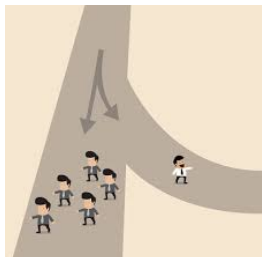
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## Selecting the Most Appropriate AAC Device

### TOOLS AND INFLUENCES

- Facebook
- Internet Search
- Media
- Vendor Literature
- Personal or Professional Bias
- Evaluation of Performance and Progress
- Appropriate Goals

### MATCH ABILITIES & NEEDS



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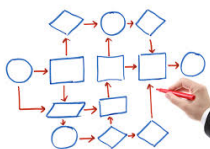
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## AAC System Selection Considerations

- Cognitive Abilities
  - Symbol Meaning
- Physical Abilities
  - Symbol Size
  - Field or Grid Size
- Sequencing Skills
  - Symbol or Icon
  - Category
  - Message Formation
- Receptive and Expressive Language Abilities



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## Success Breeds More Success



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