# Becoming a Proficient AAC User:

# AAC and Autism Spectrum Disorder

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| AAC=Augmentative and Alternative Communication   3 levels of AT.   Low, mid and high technology. My AAC Features and Tips:  |  |  | | --- | --- | | SNUG Building a message word-by-word:   * encourages segmentation of language * allows for growth * flexible   Cartoon male with darker skin holding a communication device. | Speech Output Having the device speak each word as message is constructed:   * gives sensory feedback * makes it easier to participate in conversation   It’s important for me to have a “fast” voice! | | Sensory Everyone has different sensory needs. Settings and colors on the device can be changed to accommodate personal preferences and needs. | Motor Planning When word locations are unique and consistent, the physical process of communication becomes automatic. |  My AAC User Skills:  * control device functions such as volume * edit their device * advocate for themselves | Autism Spectrum Disorder: ASD is a developmental disorder that causes repetitive behaviors and communication deficits. Communication: Difficulty with:   * Participating in conversation * Understanding social “rules” * Understanding non-literal language * Reading body language and facial expressions * Making eye contact  Restrictive and Repetitive Behavior:  * Insistence on sameness and routine * Repetitive movement and activities * Intense interests * Different sensory processing   People with ASD experience these traits in different ways and to different degrees of severity.  Traits identified: Communication, Language, Interestes, Sensory processing and routine.  Level 1: requiring support  Level 2: requiring substantial support  Level 3: requiring very substantial support  25-30% of people with ASD cannot meet their communication needs through speech alone.  *(Brignell, A., Chenausky, K. V., Song, H., Zhu, J., Suo, C., & Morgan, A. T. (2018)*  Possible reasons:   * Apraxia * Sensory Processing Disorder * Difficulty with receptive language |

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