TEACH Presents:
An Introduction to DSCBA's Low Tech Library

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Today, we'll talk about...

The importance of communication

AAC (Augmentative & Alternative Communication)

Navigating DSCBA's new "low-tech" library
We **ALL** Need to Communicate!

Expressive/receptive communication and processing challenges can make it more difficult for individuals with Ds to effectively convey thoughts, feelings and ideas, meaningfully participate with adults and peers, and navigate the world around them.

Limited or no means to communicate = anxiety, frustration, withdrawal, non-compliance, and other behaviors.

When expressive language isn't giving an individual access to meaningful communication, we must look for alternative methods!
AAC Defined

Augmentative – *To add to, make greater, expand, increase*

Alternative – *Different*

Communication
No Tech – Communication with Your Body

Expressive speech

Sign language
Low-Tech

• Does not involve electronics

• Ex: PECS
High-Tech

- Complex electronic device
- Ex: iPad with customized communication system
Benefits of Low-Tech

- Can help facilitate early implementation of AAC
- Low cost
- Portability
- Customizable
- Easy for adults and peers to model and use – increases participation and inclusion across environments
A Holistic Approach to Improving Communication

- Customizable visual content
- Links to resources to educate individuals who are new to AAC
- Links to activities, videos, and songs that give you a chance to put it into practice
Website Navigation:

1. Go to dscba.org
2. Click on Education Tab
3. Choose "Augmentative Alternative Communication"
Low-Tech Library

1. Find a board and print! Select the pdf file, download it to your device and print.
2. Customize. Did you find a board that will work but needs a little personalization such as pictures, names, etc.? Customization of a board can be requested by submitting this form:

Inventory

Explore our inventory Please Click Here!
Key Components

Legend of "need to know info" to help you navigate the library and maximize your experience – PLEASE READ

Access to hundreds of printable pictures, communication boards, visual schedules, social stories, and behavior charts

Activity links to dozens of songs, videos, and helpful websites

Access to boardmaker online, which allows those with subscriptions the ability to customize

Customization support from DSCBA's AAC Team
- Song link
- Video Link
- Customize form
- Helpful website
Customize instantly with Boardmaker subscription

Request customization by clicking on hammer icon and completing online form
DSCBA's Amazing AAC Team

• Kati Skulski – SLP, AT/AAC Specialist
• Reeni Kraft – SLP, AT/AAC Specialist
• Amanda Roberson – AAC & Communications Tech, Librarian
Remember...

- It may look overwhelming, but there's a pattern! It just takes a little getting used to.

- Have fun and explore! There are a lot of great resources on this page, so take your time and focus on what is pertinent to your life, your child/student, etc.

- Provide feedback – we're always looking for ways to improve our services.

- Share with your education team!

- Reach out to DSCBA with any questions or concerns. We're here to support YOU!