



**AAC INFORMATION NIGHT
FOR CAREGIVERS**

*Communication
Bill of Rights
(Rights 11 - 13)*

September 13, 2022 at 6pm Pacific
(Zoom meeting)



Welcome to the Parent Information Night

Agenda

Introductions

Margaret Edwards, SLP

Caralee Wirth, SLP

Other attendees

NWACS Introduction

Presentation - Bill of Rights 11-13

About NWACS

- Stands for the Northwest Augmentative Communication Society
- Founded in the late 1970s
- One of the oldest and longest running organizations supporting individuals with complex communication needs in the northwest
- Holds an annual conference
- Is run by volunteers

We are here to serve you, let us know what you need

Learning Outcomes:

- The learner will learn solutions to challenges regarding access
- The learner will learn the importance of using AAC to teach AAC across settings
- The learner will learn ways to respectfully acknowledge and address the AAC user

Communication Bill of Rights

#11 The right to have access to functioning AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) and other AT (assistive technology) services and devices at all times



Potential Challenges:

1. Something is wrong with the hardware
2. Something is wrong with the software
3. It can't be used in certain situations (i.e. around water)
4. Battery is not fully charged
5. Other challenges?



Solutions:

1. Inspect device routinely for hardware damage
2. Have precautions in place to prevent hardware damage
3. Run the most current software for the system
4. Back-up pages/vocabulary files within the system
5. Have a paper-based backup for electronic AAC devices
6. Establish a routine for keeping the battery charged
7. Notify your SLP or company representative immediately with any challenges
8. Don't let the fear of damaging the AAC keep you from using it!



Paper-Based Backup with Proloquo2Go



[Assistiveware Directions](#)

[Saltillo Directions](#) (Lite-Tech communication board options)

<https://thinksmartbox.com/product/super-core-new/>


#12: The right to access environmental contexts, interactions, and opportunities that promote participation as full communication partners with other people, including peers

What Does this mean?

Having the communication (or access to) to participate fully in an environment and activities that are important to the individual/AAC.

Activities

- Sports
- Social gatherings (dinners, parties, etc.)
- Clubs
- Movies/video games/media
- Shopping
- Ordering Food/Beverage
- Outings- field trips, zoo, apple picking, pumpkin patch, etc.



**TALK WITH ME
USING MY AAC**

I want to talk about the things my peers
are talking about:
Music, sports, movies, games.
Tell me your favorites and
ask me about mine.

RACHAEL LANGLEY - AAC SPECIALIST - REACH LANGUAGE, LLC

Use AAC to Teach AAC

- Multimodal communication
 - Low Tech and High Tech
 - Signs and gestures
- See me, see my AAC system
 - Provide Access at all times
- MODEL MODEL MODEL
 - Aided Language Modeling
 - Descriptive Language Teaching



**Where are you on
your AAC Journey?**



PERHAPS IF
YOU CAN'T
GET HIM TO
SAY WHAT
YOU WANT

**YOU SHOULD TRY
HELPING HIM SAY WHAT
HE WANTS.**

Communication is only
really communication if
you can't predict what
will be said!

Check out these links:

<https://saltillo.com/blog/post/jamie-dolan-speaks-before-the-united-nations-using-his-nova-chat-8>

<https://saltillo.com/blog/post/poetry-by-aac-device-user-darryl-porter>

#13: The right to be treated with dignity and addressed with respect and courtesy



Don't do this....

1. Ignore an AAC user
1. Talk to an AAC that is NOT a preschooler using high pitched sing-song voice
1. Talk about instead of to an AAC user if they can hear you
1. Use curriculum that is not age respectful
1. Assume you know what the AAC user is thinking



Do this instead.....

1. Acknowledge the AAC user and say what you see
1. Use a normal voice!
1. Include the AAC user in all conversations
1. Present a curriculum that is age appropriate
1. Do not THINK AN AAC USERS THOUGHTS!





Resources:

<https://www.asha.org/njc/communication-bill-of-rights/>

<https://www.asha.org/njc/>

<https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac>

<https://www.nwacs.info/learn-about-aac>

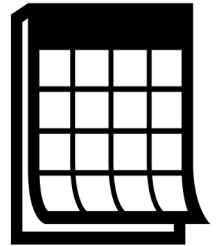
<https://aaclanguagelab.com/>

<http://chapelhillsnippets.blogspot.com/2016/06/aac-devices-its-merely-tip-of-iceberg.html>

Upcoming Events

Parent Information Nights*

Tuesday November 8th: Communication Bill of Rights - Fundamental Rights 14-15



*Dates are tentative

Get Connected with NWACS

<https://www.nwacs.info/get-involved>

Here is where you can find NWACS on social media:

[Facebook](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

[Northwest Augmentative Communication Caregiver Society \(NWACCS\)](#) - This group is for families in Washington State. It is for parents and family members of children who are unable to meet all their communication needs with mouth words.