Building Relationships & Independence through Communication Supports

Jane Odom, M. Ed

Candice Steel, SLP-L, ATP

Learning objectives

- Participants will be able to identify at least three communicative competencies for a fulfilled life as a teen or adult AAC user.
- Participants will be able to evaluate at least two domains they can focus on for building community for AAC users entering a major life transition.
- Participants will be able to identify two activities to be implemented into a teen or adult AAC user’s schedule to increase communicative competence.

Transitioning

- Education & Training
- Employment
- Independent Living
- Social / Community Life

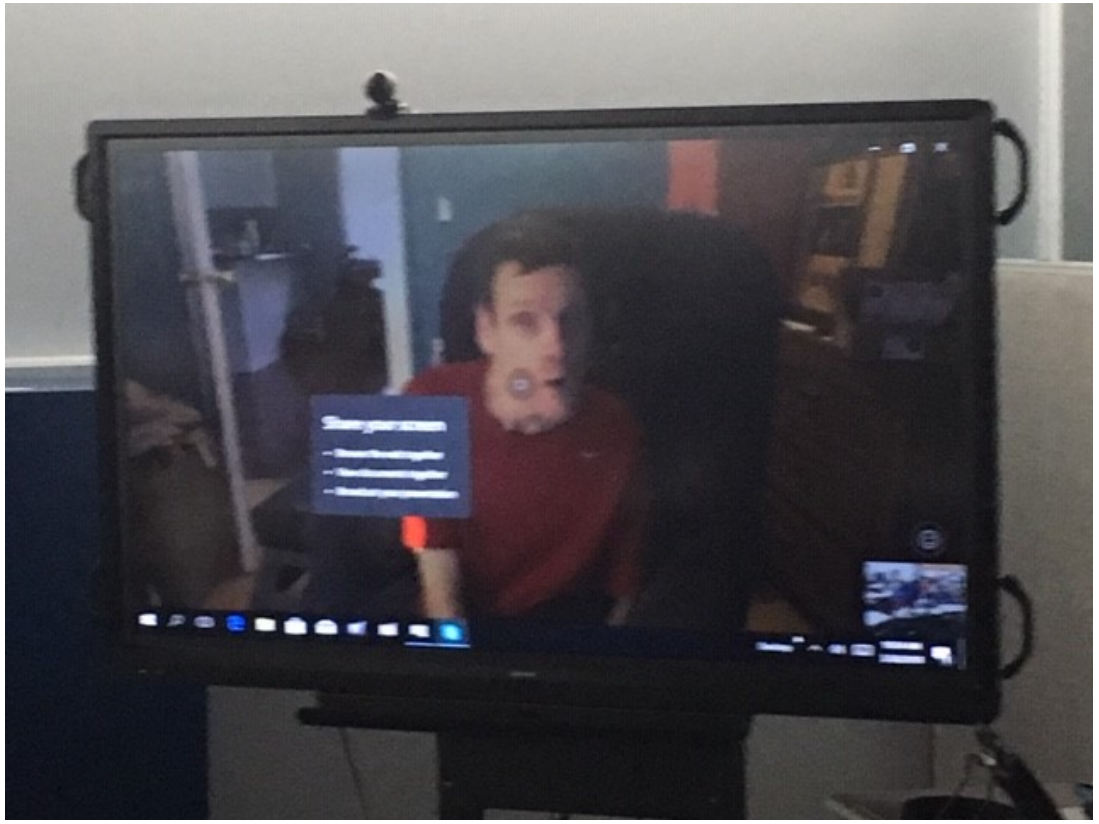
Communication Partners

- EVERYONE is a Communication Partner
  - Respond appropriately to someone using an AAC device
  - Talks WITH the person using AAC
  - Does not interact with the facilitator
- Active Listening
  - Be Patient
  - Paraphrase
  - Avoid distracting actions or gestures
  - Avoid interrupting the speaker
  - Exhibit appropriate facial expressions
  - Be empathetic

Dare to Dream

- *"If we don't dream, take our dreams seriously, make them known to others, and work towards their fulfillment, then we will live according to someone else's decisions and visions for our lives".*
- *Carol Marfisi*

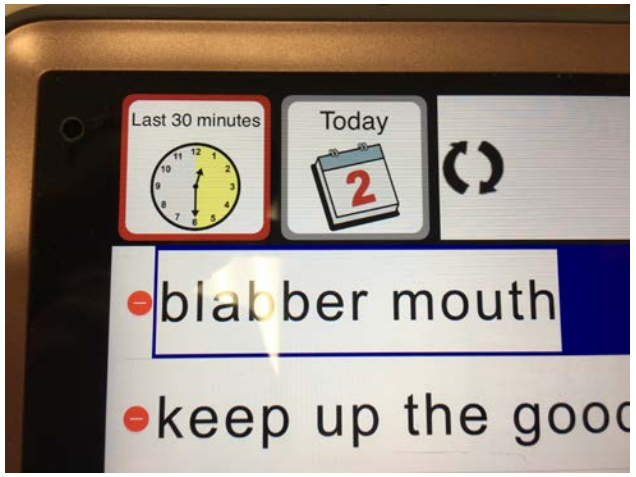
Peer Mentors

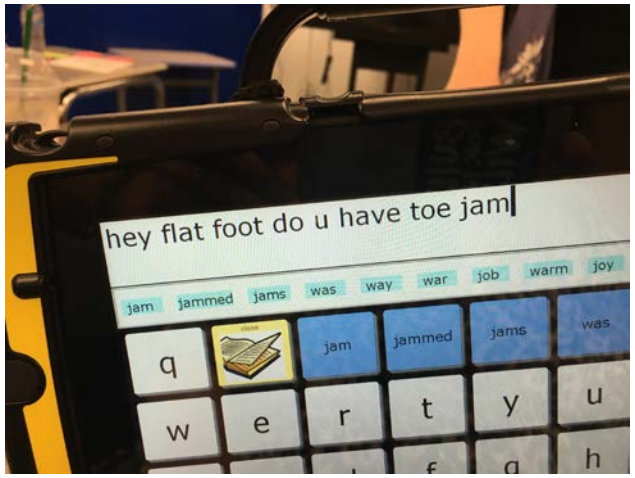


- Benefits
  - Increased self confidence
  - Teaches how to speak up and be heard
  - Improves interpersonal skills
  - Provides important contacts
  - Helps someone better understand what possibilities could happen
  - Sees someone just like them overcome to be succesful

Supports

- Shout Outs
- Poetry
- Insults
- Comments





Developing Goals

Communicative Competence

- Learn the AAC system
- Maintain the AAC system
- Use the AAC system
- Repair communication breakdown

Individual Goals

- First Steps
- Natural Supports

Domains

- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Family/social
- Health/medical
- Safety
- Daily living
- Emotional/behavioral
- Transportation
- Cultural/language

Building Relationships and Independence through Communication Supports

- Full Curriculum and Supports on the AAC Language Lab
  - www.aaclanguagelab.com
- Resources available
  - Power Partners
  - Communication
  - Social Skills
  - Computer Access
  - Empowerment