



Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is an umbrella term for a wide range of communication interventions and technologies that can support or replace natural speech.

AAC is used by individuals who have difficulty communicating effectively through speech alone due to various medical conditions and developmental disabilities including those with autism, cerebral palsy, stroke, traumatic brain injury, and other neurological or developmental disorders.

Cole Health works with children and caregivers to provide the following services using AAC:

- Provide a means of communication for children who have difficulty communicating verbally
- Decrease frustrations, self-injuries, and aggressive behaviors that may occur due to communication difficulties
- Teach self-advocacy skills for patients and others with disabilities, promoting inclusion and awareness
- Improve socialization, self-esteem, and academic performance

Locations throughout TX, NC, WA, and DMV area
please visit colehealth.com for complete listing

CONTINUED



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8 THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN A CHILD THAT INDICATES A BENEFICIAL USE OF AAC

A desire or interest in communicating but an inability to do so effectively (i.e. *grabs parent's hand to guide them to preferred objects or when they need help*)

Limited or no speech development

Difficulty producing speech sounds or using language to express themselves; Difficult to understand in general

Inability to effectively communicate basic needs and wants

Lack of social interaction due to communication barriers

Frustration or behavioral issues due to communication difficulties

History of neurological or developmental disorders that affect speech and language development

Hearing or visual impairments that impact communication



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