

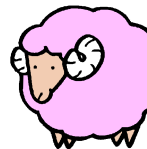


# ***CHECKLIST FOR PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR***

## **STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS**

Review the items below and make a decision about whether you feel your child's AAC team is empowered to support your child becoming an effective communicator. Although parents and AAC teams need to face the realities of limitations in knowledge, skills, and resources, these limitations should not lower expectations of success. Empowered parents use strategies and evidence to support interventions that achieve success.

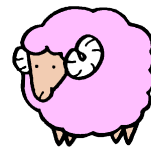
√	<b>Empowerment Strategies</b>
	Assume and expect the best!
	Don't leave anything to chance.
	Establish baseline information (data).
	Identify the AAC training and experience of school and other professional service providers.
	Be fully informed of ALL YOUR OPTIONS.
	Be fully informed of the funding resources and process.
	AAC intervention is not a hierarchical process that starts with low technology and builds to higher technology.
	I.E.P. objectives are mandated to be measurable and should be written to integrate specific AAC interventions across the curriculum.
	Monitor gains in the transitional stages of language development.
	Start with the highest number of keys/locations possible and at the highest level of a language program.
	Use language-based manual communication boards so you're not waiting for voice output.
	Be prepared. Have AAC systems or methods available in case of an emergency.
	Participant on the Parents' Corner discussion list and subscribe to the AAC Institute update announcements.
	Use an advocate for support.



## CHECKLIST: STRATEGIES FOR EMPOWERED ADULTS

Review the items below and check whether you feel you are empowered to support your AAC systems and services. Although you may find limitations in available resources and in the knowledge and skills of service providers, these limitations should not lower your expectations for success and reaching your potential. Empowered individuals use strategies to gain access and approval to supports and services to achieve optimized communication.

√	<b>Empowerment Strategies</b>
	I am managing my own AAC services, but can call on an advocate when needed.
	I have manual communication strategies in place and instructions to access AAC methods during an emergency or hospitalization.
	I have files of my records and evidence, and have them in a safe place.
	My records include information on my performance, outcomes and long-term goals.
	I have baseline information (data) to guide and compare my AAC choices.
	I know that I have been fully informed or have taken the steps to inform myself of ALL my options for technology and services.
	I can advocate for funding making sure that my SLP has collected evidence to support my choices and the recommendations.
	I will not accept substitutions for the AAC system I have selected and know what to say if someone does not respect my choice.
	I use AAC for more than “medical necessity” and select AAC systems with integrated features to improve my overall quality of life and opportunities for independence.
	I appreciate how the 10,000 hour rule may influence my success.
	I don’t leave anything to chance and create my own opportunities.
	I read and contribute to <i>Around the Water Cooler</i> and monitor AAC ConsumerNet information and resources.
	I can pay to forward. I can make a contribution as a mentor and/or help to find solutions to improve resources, services, and funding for individuals who need AAC.



## CHECKLIST: STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE AND AGING

Review the items below and check whether you feel you used your empowerment to support your AAC systems and services. You've been an effective communicator and want to continue to function as independently as possible. Although you continue to find limitations in available resources and in the knowledge and skills of service providers, these limitations have not lowered your expectations for a quality life. Empowered individuals use strategies to maintain optimized communication and access to supports and services.

√	<b>Empowerment Strategies</b>
	I have a health care advocate.
	I manage my own AAC services and keep my own records and evidence.
	I have discussed medical directives and have necessity medical documents in place.
	I have manual communication strategies in place and instructions to access AAC methods during an emergency or hospitalization.
	I have planned for upgrading my AAC system about every 5 years.
	I have identified clinicians and service providers who can meet my AAC needs.
	I continue to request to be fully informed of ALL my options for technology and services OR seek to find all my options.
	AAC is more than a "medical necessity" for me and I have integrated features and functions to my assistive technology.
	I use performance data to monitor possible changes in performance, especially changes to my physical status for access to AAC and other health considerations that may influence the effectiveness of my communication.
	I don't leave anything to chance.
	I read and contribute to <i>Around the Water Cooler</i> and monitor AAC ConsumerNet information and resources.
	I pay it forward.