

# Strategies to Use When Communicating With a Person Who Uses Augmentative Communication

Some of the rules for having a conversation change when we are speaking with someone who uses augmentative communication.

Here are some guidelines to consider:

- Speak respectfully to the person who is using AAC. Use a natural tone, volume, and rate.
- Ask the person to show you how he/she communicates “yes” and “no”.
- Ask the person if he/she has a communication display or device.
- Ask if you can get the display or device.
- Ask the person to demonstrate use of the display or device.
- Ask the person to demonstrate his/her signal to communicate something.
- Give the person the opportunity and time to communicate
- Repeat the message back to the person to ensure that you have understood the intended message.
- Put the message into a sentence and ask for confirmation.
- Focus on what the person communicates, not just on how he/she communicates.

## Reference:

Collier, B.M. (2000). *Communicating Matters: A training guide for personal attendants working with consumers who have enhanced communication needs*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.