

AAC SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Hierarchy of Communication Support Strategies

For new and seasoned AAC users

A hierarchy of communication strategies gives the AAC team a shared guide for promoting **independent communication**. It moves from **least** to **most** assistance. Start at the top, and only step down a level if the user needs more support.

LEAST ASSISTANCE

01



Wait Time

Give the AAC user time to process and respond, using an expectant pause.

02



Gestural Support

Use a motion or body language to direct them to the device, or to signal it is their turn to respond.

03



Visual Support

Direct the user's attention to print-outs of icons or on-device visuals to prompt communication on the device.

04



Verbal Support

Offer an open-ended prompt *"I wonder what you want to eat?"* or name a special option *"Let's find the food page."*

MOST ASSISTANCE



Modeling matters more than perfection.

Keep going, even if the response isn't immediate