

3 Tips for Using AAC in Teletherapy

While using AAC during a teletherapy session can feel overwhelming at first, with the right tools and tricks, it can be an effective way to promote functional language and provide access to communication. Here are some ways you can support communication remotely.



Model Language on a Device or Core Board

An important part of introducing AAC is modeling language through your learner's AAC system. After determining what system your learner is using, set up your sessions so that you can model on a similar system. Search for core boards or computer programs that match the system your learner is using. There are multiple ways to model AAC during teletherapy:

- ✓ Set a core board as your virtual background.
- ✓ Mirror an iPad or device that has a communication app on your teletherapy platform through AirPlay, a cable, or a secondary mirroring app.
- ✓ Show a core board that replicates the device through a document camera, webcam, or phone.
- ✓ Share your screen to show a computer version of AAC software from your computer.

When using static core boards, you will not be able to model the full sequence required to select a certain icon. That's okay! Model the first step in the sequence or focus on core words present on the home page.

Select Engaging Activities

Choose activities that will be engaging and motivating for your learner to promote language development and device use. Virtual games, YouTube videos, music, and different virtual backgrounds are a great way to promote language via teletherapy. Have your learner work on requesting, commenting, or expressing their emotions on their device while you model language during virtual play or conversations.





Leverage In-Person Support

Invite a parent, teacher, or paraprofessional to help facilitate device use during the session. They can join using their phone and can use the camera to provide a clear view of the learner and the device. This collaborative approach enables you to observe the learner's device usage directly and provide real-time, actionable instructions that the caregiver can immediately implement.

Coaching is another great strategy for AAC implementation during teletherapy. Arrange a video setup that captures the parent or support professional, the learner, and the communication device simultaneously. This view allows you to provide immediate, targeted feedback on device usage and modeling techniques for more effective skill development.

Provide resources and handouts that can help with carryover for parents, teachers, and other professionals! **Resources for implementing AAC are available at [quicktalkerfreestyle.com](https://www.quicktalkerfreestyle.com).**



Is your learner new to AAC? Unsure what system to start with?

With AbleNet, your learner can receive a hands-on experience with a QuickTalker Freestyle to help you determine if the device will fit their needs! This allows the learner and their family to explore the device in all environments. ableCARE provides comprehensive virtual support for app setup and device programming, ensuring seamless integration into your teletherapy sessions.