

# Setting Up Your Space for AAC Success



Whether you're in the home, the clinic, or the classroom, thoughtfully setting up your environment can encourage communication and support successful AAC use. The following strategies help create a space that fosters AAC use during daily interactions.

## Device Management

- ✓ **Always have the AAC device available.** The device should accompany the user throughout the day for maximum communication opportunities.
- ✓ **Establish a designated home for the device.** Create a consistent charging/storage station where the device stays overnight, making it easy to find each morning and ensuring it's fully charged.
- ✓ **Position the device for optimal access.** Place it within easy reach based on the individual's specific access method.

## Environmental Setup

- ✓ **Control lighting thoughtfully.** Adjust lighting to prevent glare on the device screen while also reducing overstimulation.
- ✓ **Minimize visual clutter.** A calmer visual environment helps users focus on communication rather than competing stimuli.
- ✓ **Create space for movement.** AAC should be engaging and dynamic! Allow room for users to move and interact naturally while communicating.

## Strategic Item Placement

- ✓ **Create communication opportunities.** Keep highly motivating toys, snacks, or activities on shelves or out of direct reach to encourage requesting.
- ✓ **Use containers strategically.** Store items in clear boxes or containers that require help to open, providing natural opportunities for the user to ask for assistance.
- ✓ **Add visual supports throughout the environment.** Place pictures or icons on relevant items and locations for quick communication modeling. For example, put a "go" icon on the door or an "eat" icon on the refrigerator so you can model communication in the moment, even if the device isn't immediately available.



## Keep It Fresh

Rotate toys and materials regularly. Swap out toys and change their locations periodically to maintain novelty and sustained interest.

AbleNet

QuickTalker Freestyle  
LET THE CONVERSATION BEGIN