



Charting the Cs
Conference 2025:
*To Literacy and
Beyond*

Cooperation
Communication
Collaboration

AAC Consideration Kits for MN Schools

April 29, 2025

Rebecca Tetlie -MNSHA AAC Committee

Amy Perron – MN STAR Program Director

Learning Outcomes



- Participants will learn about the MN STAR Program and its lending library.
- Participants will identify the contents of the AAC Consideration Kits.
- Participants will identify how to access the AAC Consideration Kits.
- Participants will learn the requirements of borrowing the Kits.
- Participants will be able to describe two ways the AAC Communication Kit can help identify students who can benefit from AAC

Introduction & Disclosures

Amy Perron has worked at the Minnesota STAR program for eight years. First serving at the Programs Assistive Technology Specialist and currently as Program Director.

- No Disclosures to share
- Contact: amy.perron@state.mn.us



Introduction & Disclosures, Continued

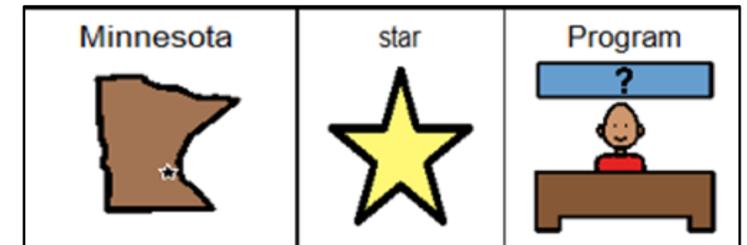
Rebecca Tetlie MA, CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist and has worked with St. Paul Public Schools for 34 years where she led the Assistive Technology Team with a focus on augmentative communication and assistive technology for reading. She retired in 2020.

- **Non-financial:** Member of ASHA, MNSHA & co-chair of the MNSHA AAC Committee.
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Minnesota STAR Program

- System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR)
- Minnesota's federally funded Assistive Technology Act Program
- Providing services to ALL MINNESOTANS
 - No proof of disability required
 - No cost for program services



Contracted Partners

- Minnesota State University Moorhead Regional Assistive Technology Center (RATC)
- North Dakota Assistive
- Pacer Center
- St. Cloud State University
- ALS Association
- Live Life Therapy Solutions
- Lighthouse Center for Vital Living
- Southeastern MN Center for Independent Living



Minnesota STAR Program Services

- Device Demonstrations
- Device Equipment Loans
 - Short-Term
 - Open-Ended (limited availability)
- Information and Assistance
- Training



STAR Demos and Loans

Device Demo

- Requested by individual, family member, guardian or professional
- Demonstrate one or more devices
- Compare similar device features
- Live and interactive
- Assist with decision making

Device Loan

- 45 days or less
- Provides an opportunity to test out the equipment in their own environments.
- Assist with decision making
- Professional Development
- Short-term accommodation

Online Lending Library: MNAT4ALL

The screenshot displays the MNAT4ALL website interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with the logo for the Minnesota Department of Administration's Assistive Technology STAR program. The main content area features a search bar at the top and a grid of eight category tiles, each with a representative image and a title: Computers and Related (keyboard), Daily Living (child in stroller), Environmental Adaptations (ramp), Hearing (woman on phone), Learning, Cognition, and Developmental (children reading), Mobility, Seating, and Positioning (motorized wheelchair), Recreation, Sports, and Leisure (person with prosthetic legs playing soccer), and Speech Communication (microphone).

mn
DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
STAR

Enter a keyword or phrase to search.

Computers and Related

Daily Living

Environmental Adaptations

Hearing

Learning, Cognition, and Developmental

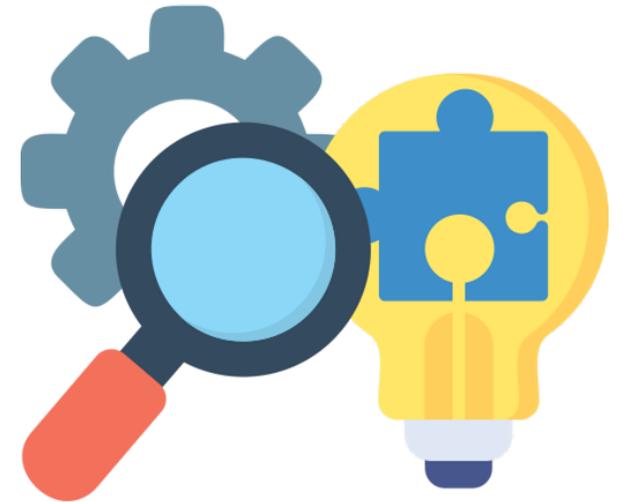
Mobility, Seating, and Positioning

Recreation, Sports, and Leisure

Speech Communication

AAC Consideration Kit Development

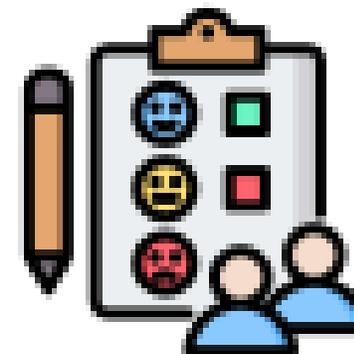
- Funding & Inception
- MN AAC Practitioner Survey
- Goals Identified
- Content & Resources Development Committee
- AAC Kit Assembly
- AAC Kit Pilot
- Planned Updates



AAC Consideration Kit Statewide Survey

WHO:

- 90 Respondents
- Licensures included: Speech, SPED Teachers, OT, Admin
- All age groups
- Surveys were distributed to the following listservs:
 - MN Speech Language (MDE)
 - MN Low Incidence Network (MDE)
 - AAC (MNSHA)



WHEN:

- Survey Duration: 12 Days (Nov 22- Dec 4)

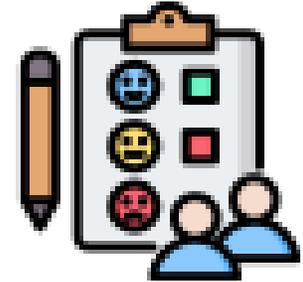
AAC Consideration Kit Statewide Survey, Cont.

WHERE?

- Responses came from 19 counties
 - 4 Metro counties
 - 15 Outstate counties

WHAT?

- Student Needs:
 - Express wants & needs and Highly engaging activities for AAC
- Tools:
 - AAC iPad, Multi-button, Core Word Displays, Wearable, One Button
 - AAC Apps: TouchChat, TD SNAP, Proloquo2Go
- Languages:
 - English, Spanish, Somali, Karen, Vietnamese, Hmong, Other



AAC Consideration Kit: Goals

Create an easy-to-use AAC Kit for IEP teams to consider AAC for students which will:

- Identify AAC features that enable success
- Provide data in feature match to identify AAC systems for a possible formal evaluation
- Provide ideas for engaging students for communication success



AAC Consideration Kit Equipment

- Low Tech Symbol Displays
- Talking tiles - 6 pack
- Little Step by Step
- GoTalk 20+ Light Touch
- iPad Generation 10
 - Protective case
- iPad Apps
 - TouchChat HD-WP*
 - TD Snap
 - Proloquo2Go
 - AAC Genie*



Loan Specifics

Who?

- Available to MN IEP teams

How? Contact MN STAR Program

- 651-201-2640 telephone
- Star.program@state.mn.us
- MN.AT4ALL.com



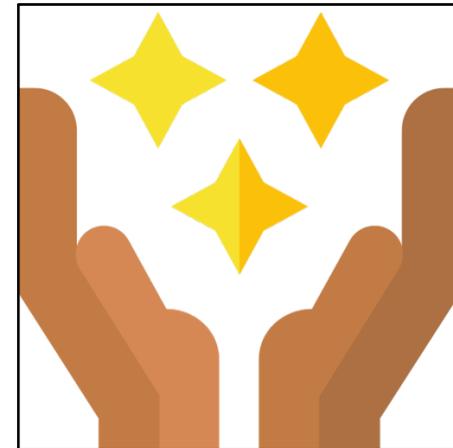
Time Period: 8 weeks

- Includes a guided timeline

Where: MN STAR Program and select partners

Guiding Principles

- Communication Bill of Rights
- SETT Framework for AT Consideration
- Assume Potential
- Evidence-Based Practices



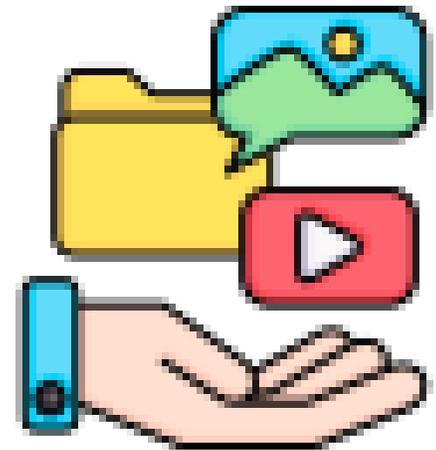
Digital Resources

How to Use the Kit

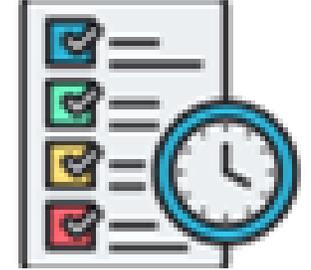
- Quickstart Guides
- Strategies to Boost Success
- Highly Engaging Activity Ideas
- Guidelines for Choosing an AAC Display

Consideration

- Access Resources
- Data Collection Tools



How to Use the Kit



Week 1: Unpack, Get Familiar & Check-In

Week 2: Choose Engaging Activities, Access Methods, Specific AAC Symbol Displays

Week 3: Try the customized AAC tools with your student

Week 4: Try AAC tools with your student & make adjustments

Week 5: Try AAC tools with your student in customary environments

Week 6: Try AAC tools with your student to add symbols & independence

Week 7: Try to add symbols, independence, home environment

Week 8: Determine Outcomes & Check-In

Quickstart Guides

- Description
- Written Quickstart
- How to Videos



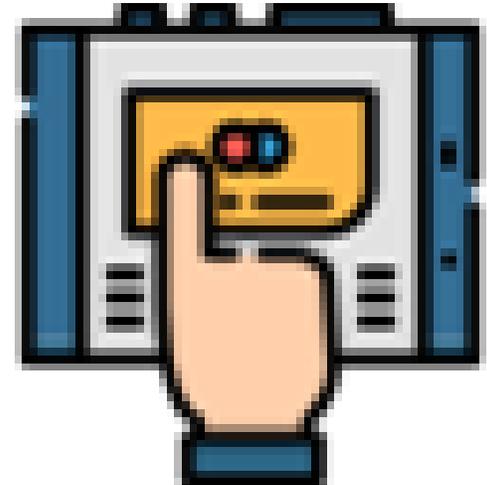
Guidelines for Choosing an AAC Display

General Tips for Success

- How to set up the iPad as AAC Device

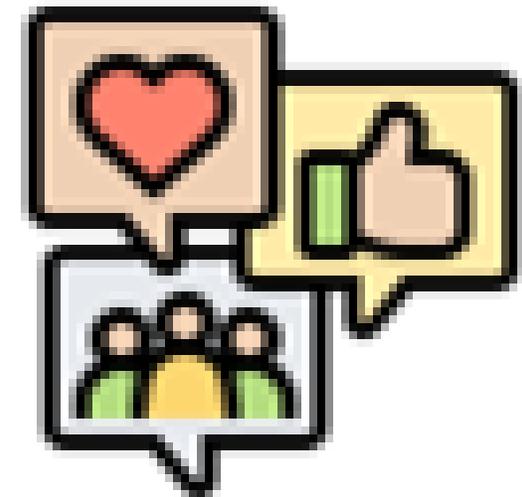
Symbolic Users

Emergent Users



Strategies for Boosting Success with AAC

- Engage and Motivate
- Model & Pause
- Create Opportunities
- Follow the Student's Lead
- Honor Any Communication Attempts



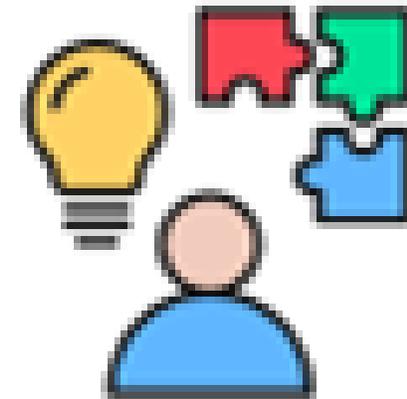
Highly Engaging Activity Ideas

- Young Students
- Elementary Students
- Secondary Students



Addressing Challenges to AAC Consideration

- Collaborate with Specialists
- Train communication partners
- Motor Challenges
- Self Regulation Challenges
- Vision Challenges
- Engagement Challenges



Outcomes

- What motivated the student?
- What access systems enabled success?
- AAC features enabled success?
- What implementation strategies enabled success?
- What environments did you try the AAC?
- What TASKS was the student able to access?
- Would the student benefit from an AAC system?
- What systems would be appropriate to trial?
- What are the Next steps?



AAC Consideration Kit: How to Access

- Application on STAR Home Page

Home Bases

STAR St. Paul

St. Cloud State University

Minnesota State University Moorhead Regional Assistive Technology Center
(RATC)

AAC Consideration Kit: Summer Pilot

- Seeking 6 IEP teams to pilot this summer
- Timeline: 8 weeks in June-July
- Willingness to follow process & submit feedback
- How to Apply



Thank you!

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images from www.freepik.com