



# Supporting Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Users

April 23, 2025  
Jae Kim, MSW

This presentation is part of a series of workshops we are doing this spring as part of the Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network.

This is a statewide collaboration between the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, WestEd, and education partners across Washington state.

One of these partners is the Family Engagement Collaborative, and The Arc of King County is part of this collaborative. This spring we are hosting workshops to help educators learn more about disability and ways to support families, and help families learn more about inclusive learning and ways to navigate the special education process.

# INSIGHTS ON SUPPORTING FAMILIES

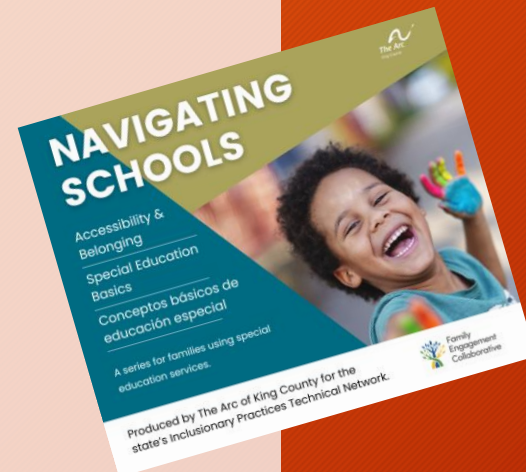


For educators who work with students with disabilities.

- Supporting Spanish-Speaking Families
- Supporting Black/African American Families
- Working with Families with High Support Needs
- Supporting AAC Users & Their Families



Produced by The Arc of King County for the state's Inclusionary Practices Technical Network.





# Who we are ...

The Arc of King County promotes and protects the rights of people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities (IDD) so we can all live, learn, work and play in the community.

The Arc is driven by the fundamental belief that everyone deserves to write their own life story. That means:

- Real access to education
- Meaningful employment
- Quality healthcare
- Genuine community connections

At our chapter, we offer information and family support, systems navigation, education & civic engagement support. We also run a supported living program for adults with IDD.

We help (or refer!) on any topic. The most common are special education, housing, and Medicaid long-term supports.

<https://arcofkingcounty.org/>; 206-829-7053  
660 SW 39th Street, Suite 205, Renton, WA 98057



Need assistance? [ask@arcofkingcounty.org](mailto:ask@arcofkingcounty.org)

## **Today's presenter:**

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Information and Referral Program Manager  
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# Welcome!

We would love to know who is here today!

Please take a minute to tell us your role/s.

# Agenda

- Introduction
- What is AAC?
- Types of AAC
- Effective Communication
- Creating Inclusive Activities
- Closing/Wrapping up





# What is AAC?

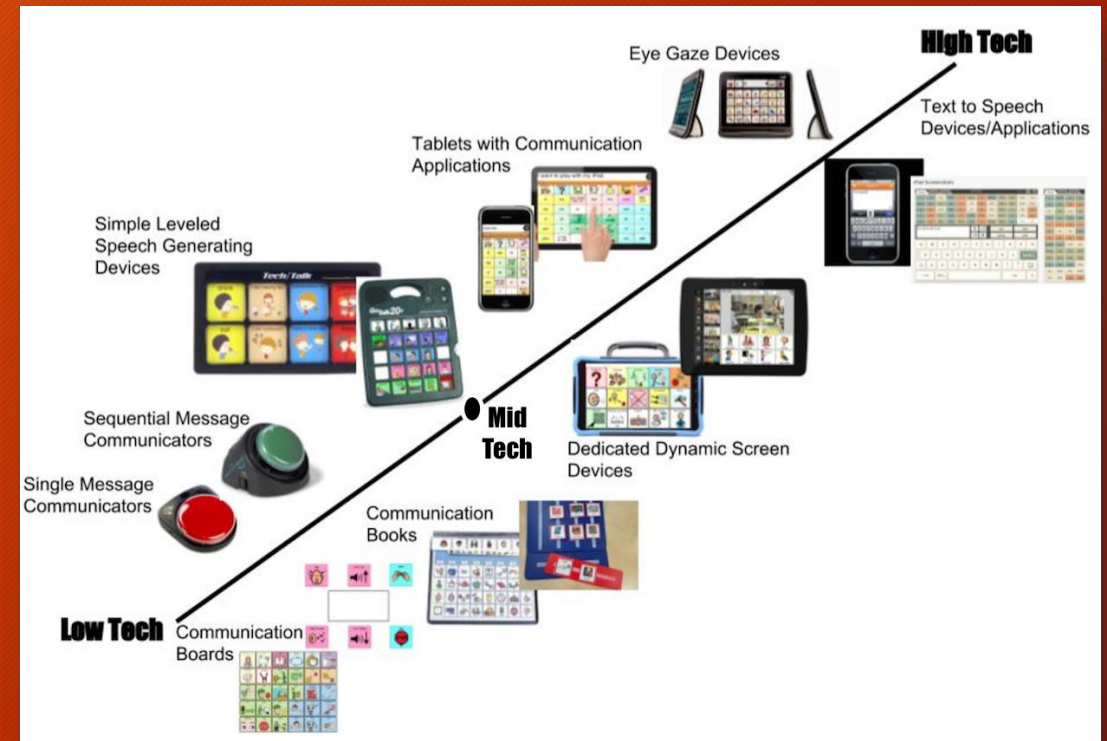
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is any alternative way of communicating instead of talking verbally.
- People of all ages and with different kinds of needs can use it.
- AAC can be many forms of communication.



# Forms of Communicating

- Communication device (high tech)
- Flip picture book and/or chart (low tech)
- Body language
- Pointing to items, letters, etc.
- Multiple choices (A, B, C, or D)

***ALL ARE EXAMPLES OF AAC!***





# Supporting AAC Users Effectively

- Be PATIENT – using AAC takes time!
- No infantilizing
- Don't take away devices
- Have an alternative way to communicate
- Don't call on the phone
- Send discussion questions in advance
- No last-minute cancellations
- Be aware that everyone is different





# Creating Inclusive Activities

- Create an activity that is age appropriate
- Don't do activities near or in the water
- Be aware of sunlight
- Have low tech AAC available as an option
- Modify so that everyone can enjoy the activity
- Be flexible





The Arc of King County  
office  
660 SW 39th St  
Renton, WA 98057  
or  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93208798502>  
PW: TheArc!

Spring 2024

# SMOOTH TALKERS



An AAC-user and family  
meetup for people of all  
ages and abilities who  
use technology to  
communicate



Saturdays, 10-11am

*Now offering both  
virtual and in-person  
options!*

April 13th Virtual

May 11th In-Person

June 8th Virtual

**\*\*AAC (Augmentative  
and Alternative  
Communication)** refers  
to devices, systems,  
strategies and tools  
that replace or support  
natural speech.

People of all AAC skill  
levels are encouraged to  
attend, even those still  
exploring if AAC is right for  
them.

For questions:  
email Jae Kim at  
[Jkim@arcokingcounty.org](mailto:Jkim@arcokingcounty.org)

You can find Smooth Talker and  
other events on our calender:  
<https://arcokingcounty.org/community-calendar.html>



# Questions

Any thoughts or questions?





Before you go...

Please let us know what you thought of today's presentation.

Your feedback allows us to understand and improve upon our training.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D22ZCL7>



# Contact us!

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