CUSTOMIZING AAC: IDENTIFYING THE "ACTIVE INGREDIENTS"

IDENTIFYING *WHAT* WORKS FOR YOUR CLIENT AND *WHY*

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SLP-CCC, ABA, Ph.D. Candidate

IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

"If all my possessions were taken from me, I would choose to keep the ability to communicate because with it I would win back all the rest"

- Daniel Webster

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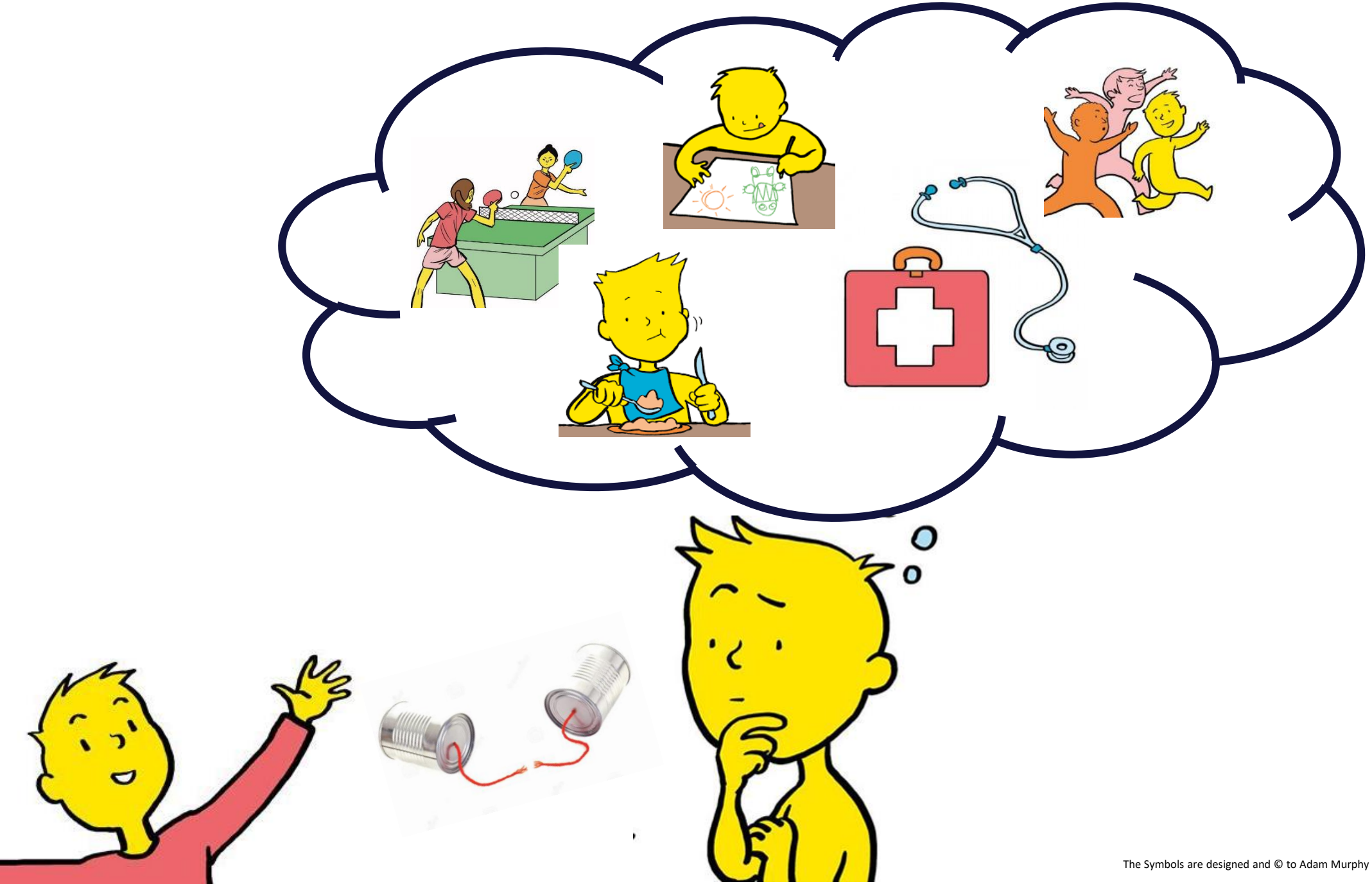

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Augmentative & Alternative Communication

The main goal of AAC is the most effective communication possible.

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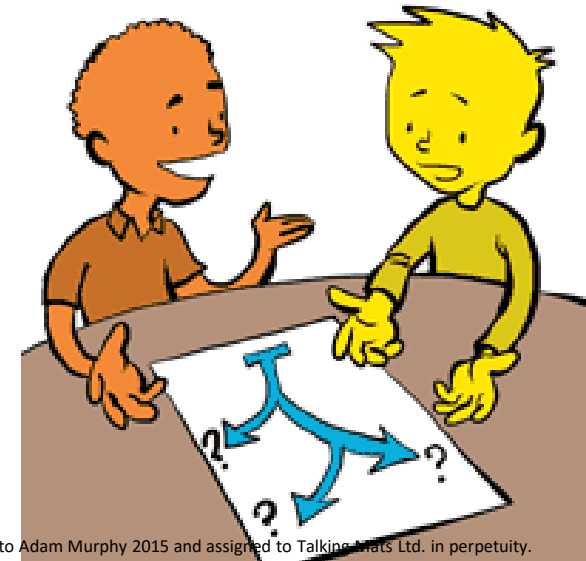
Workshop Overview

Goal: To develop effective communication programs and strategies for clients who could benefit from an alternative modes of communication

- What is Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC)?
- Augmenting AAC
- Your Communication Toolbox
- Deciphering Communication Attempts
- Working with your Therapy Team



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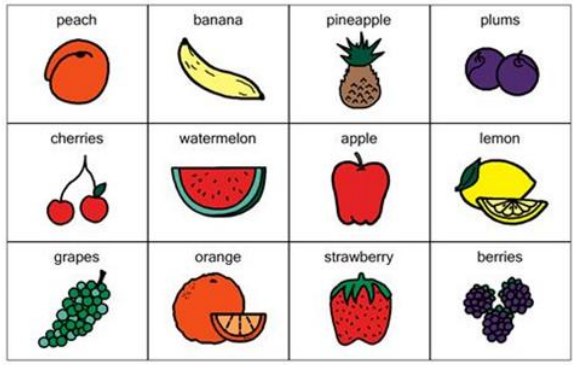
Augmentative & Alternative Communication

eat / food

Unaided

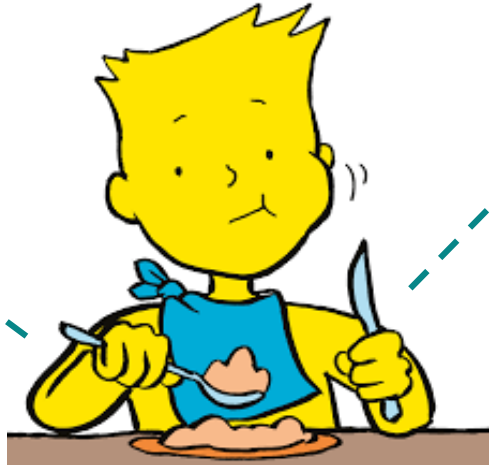
Static

Low Tech



Aided

High Tech



Dynamic

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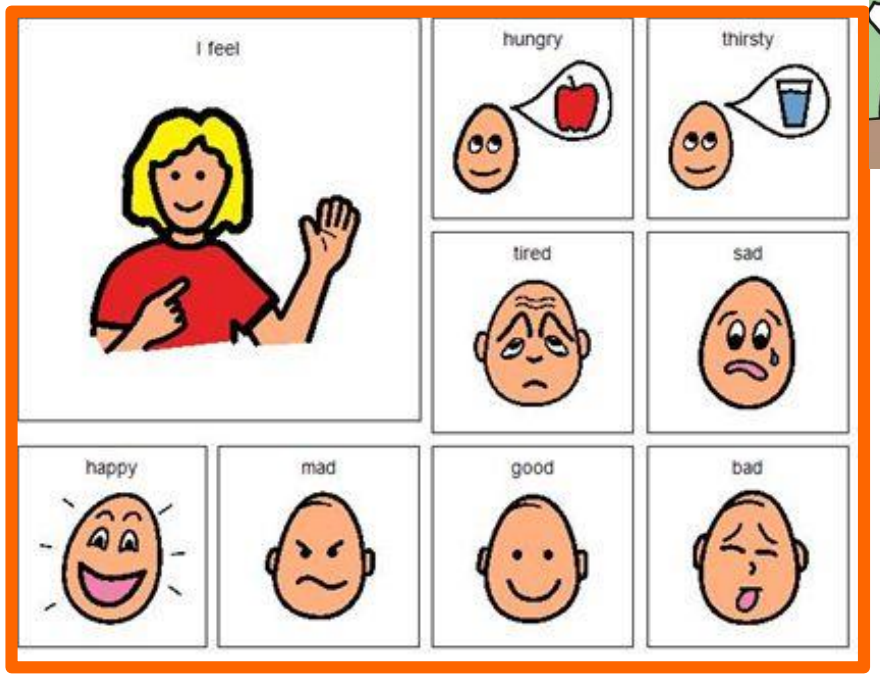
Augmentative & Alternative Communication

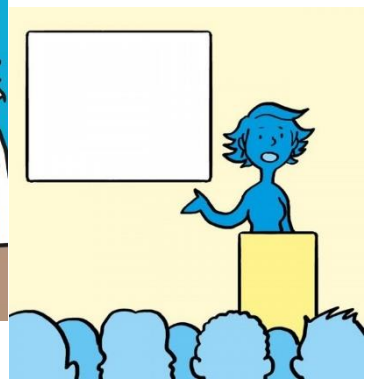
Verbal

Behavior

Non-Verbal



AAC



Expressive

Receptive

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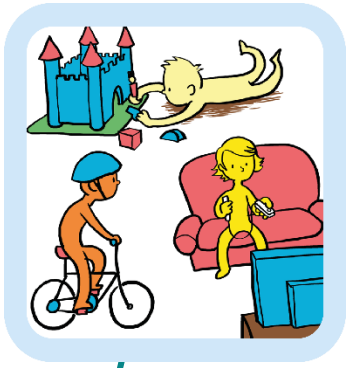
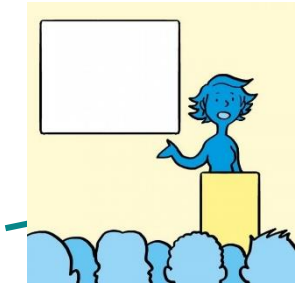
The AAC Decision Process

What are the "active ingredients" to successful AAC Communication?





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ICF

Health Condition
(e.g., CP, ASD)

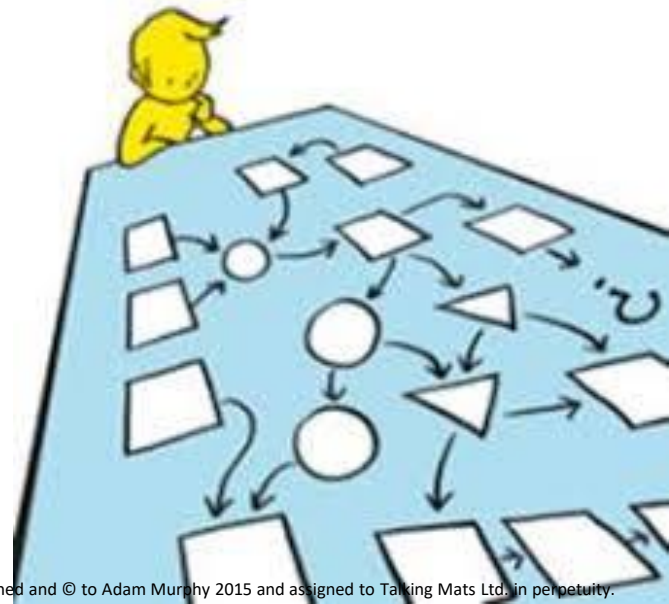
Body Structure and Function

Activity

Participation

Environmental Factors

Personal Factors



The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

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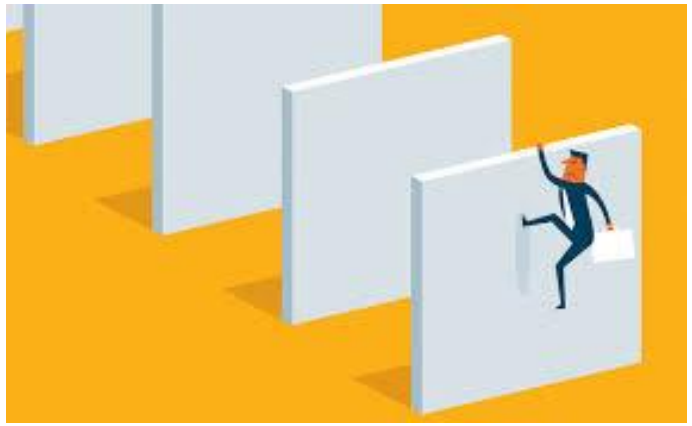
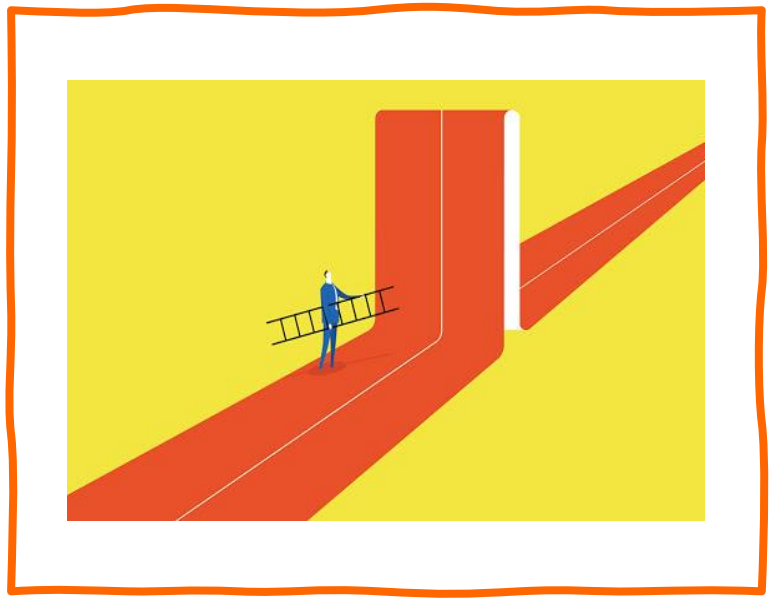
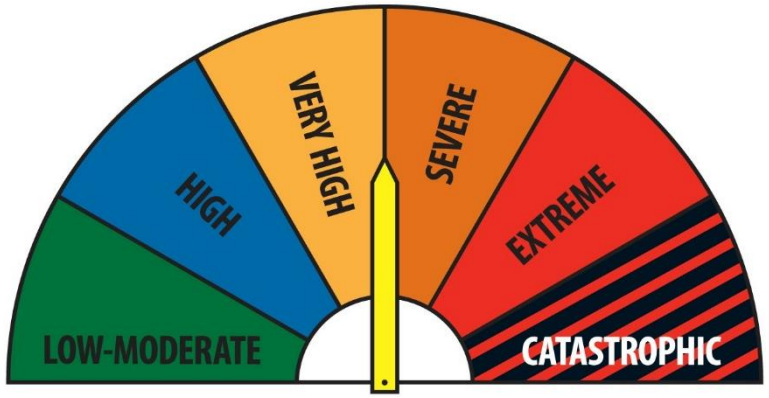
Barriers





Opportunities



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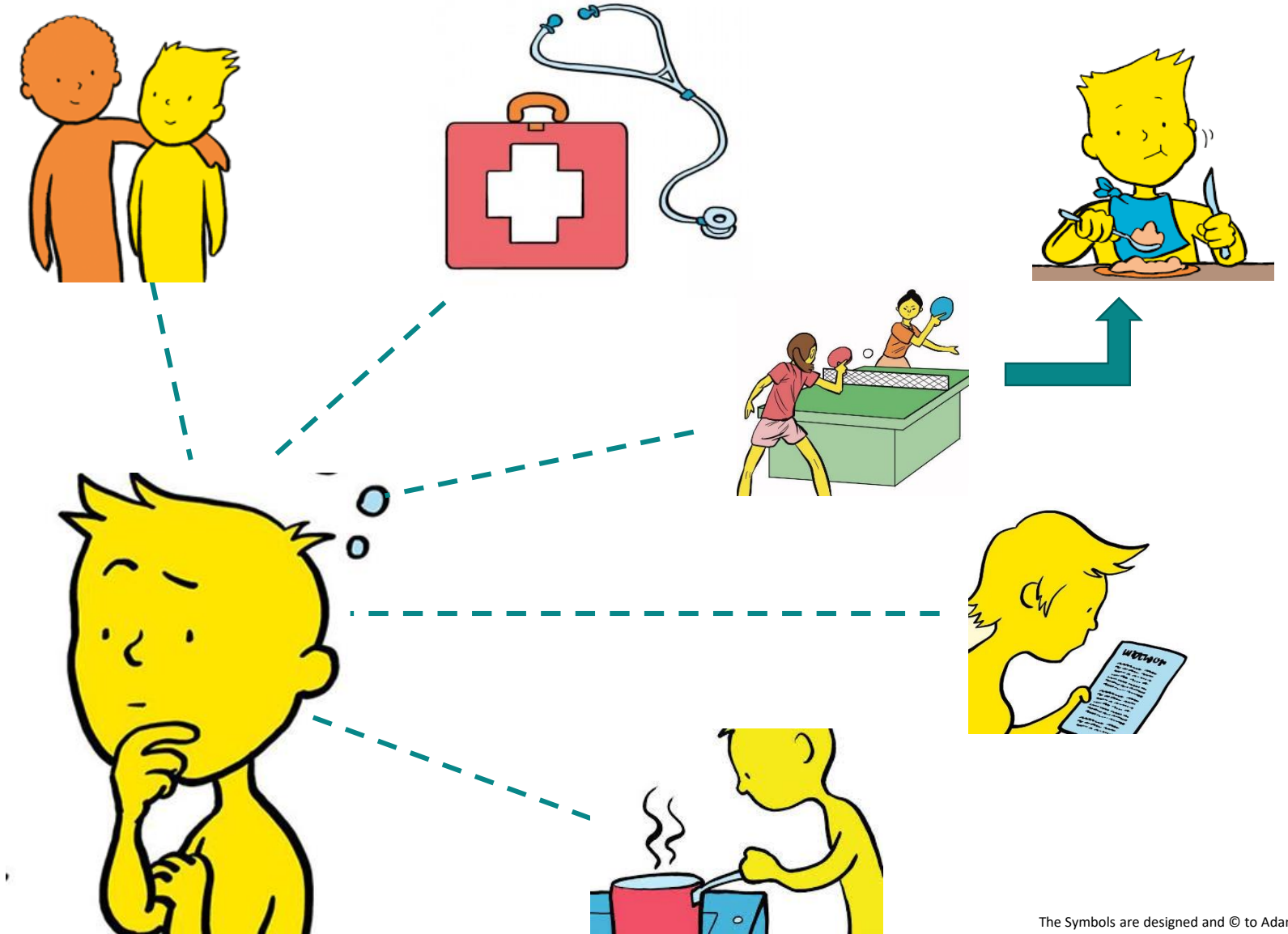
Who is my client?



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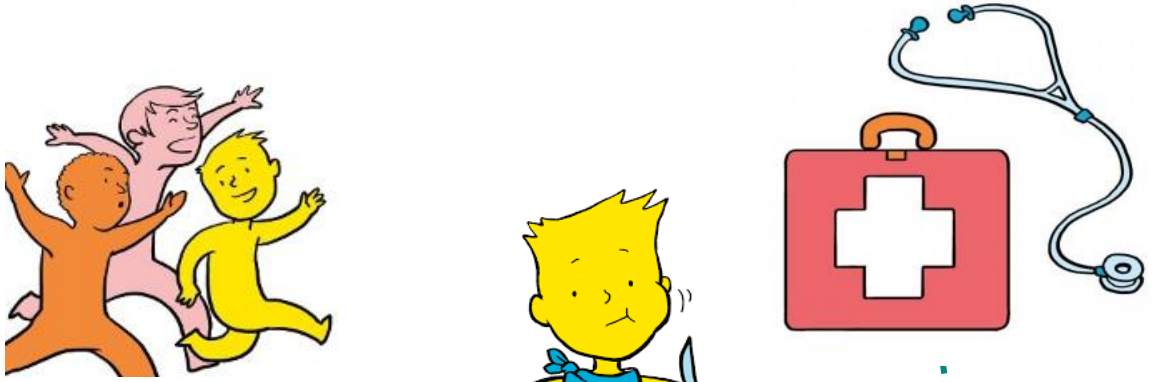
Body Structure and Function



Body Structure

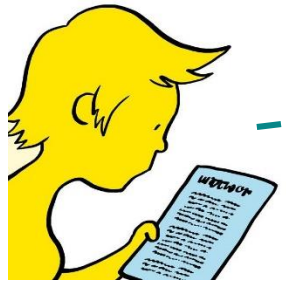
Structures related to the ….

- Nervous system
- Voice + Speech
- Cardiovascular, Respiratory
- Immunology
- Digestive, Metabolic
- Movement

Body Function

Functions related to ….

- Mental
- Sensory + Pain
- Voice + Speech
- Cardiovascular & respiratory
- Neuromusculoskeletal & movement



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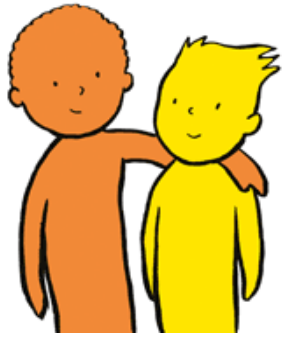
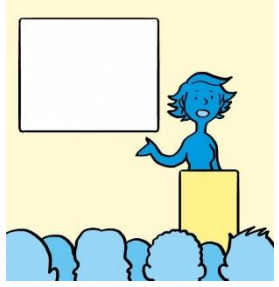
Activity

Participation

- Learning & applying knowledge
- Completing daily tasks
- Communicating
- Mobility
- Self-care & domestic independence
- Social interactions & relationships
- Community & social interactions





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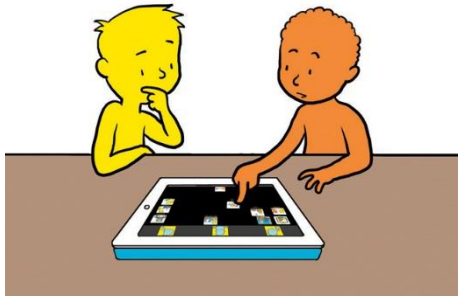

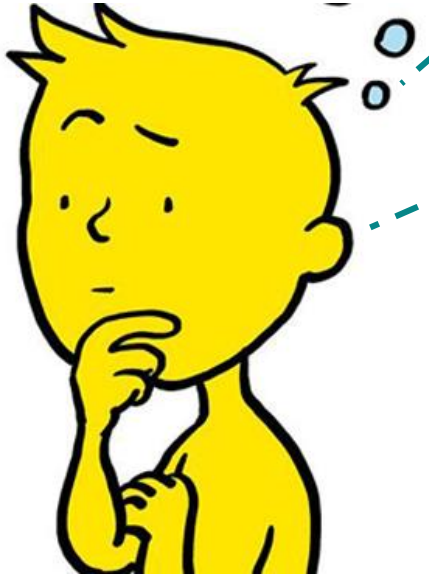

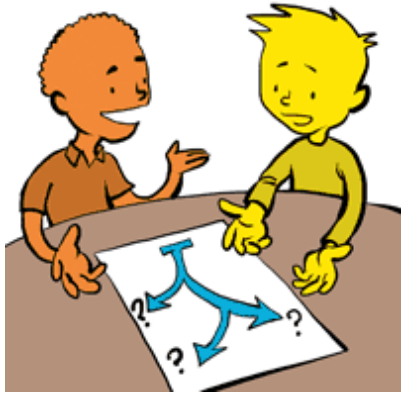

Environmental Factors

- Natural environment
- Human-made changes to environment
- Support systems + Attitudes
- Attitudes
- Policies

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Supporting Client thru -
Supporting Communication

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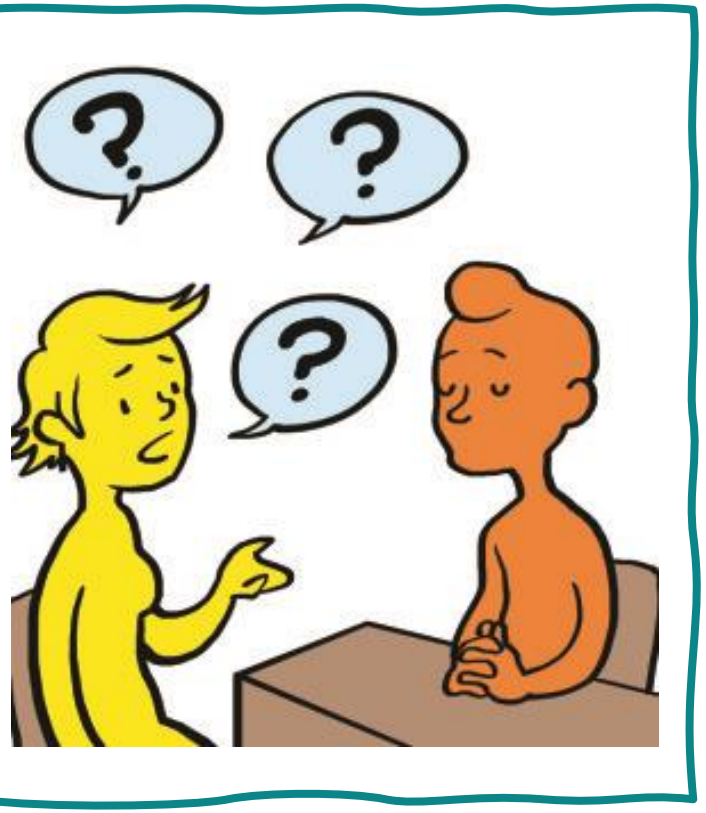

Intrinsic Factors

*Linguistic

Receptive and expressive language

*Operational

Skills to operate AAC systems (physical & cognitive)

* Strategic

Compensatory strategies to overcome/prevent communication breakdowns

* Social

Skills to initiate, maintain, and end interactions for communication purposes

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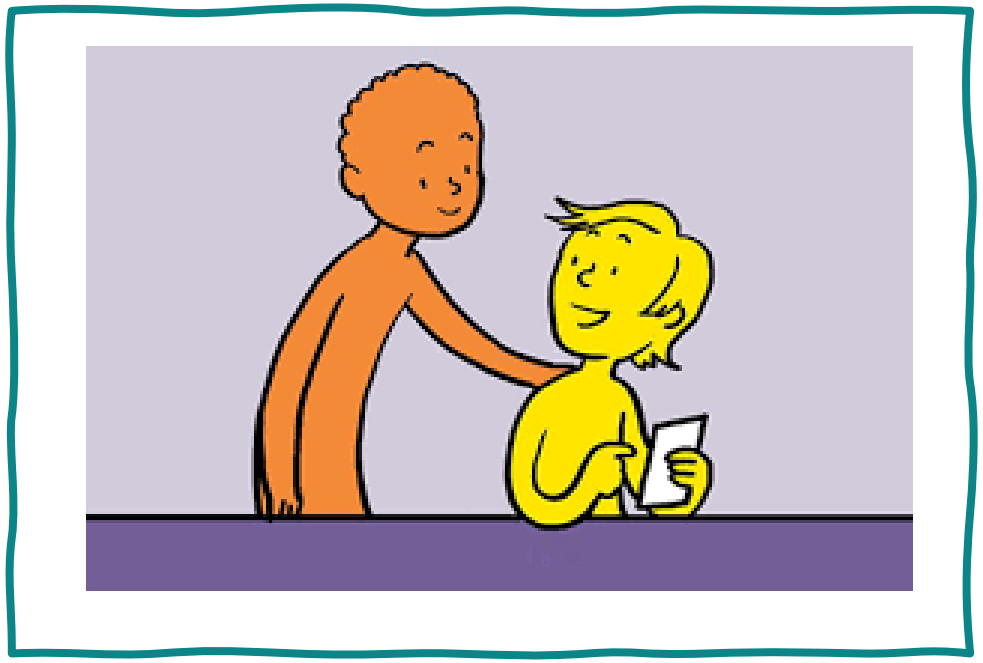
Extrinsic Factors



Communication Demands

Environmental Barriers & Supports

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Intrinsic Factors
Linguistic Competence

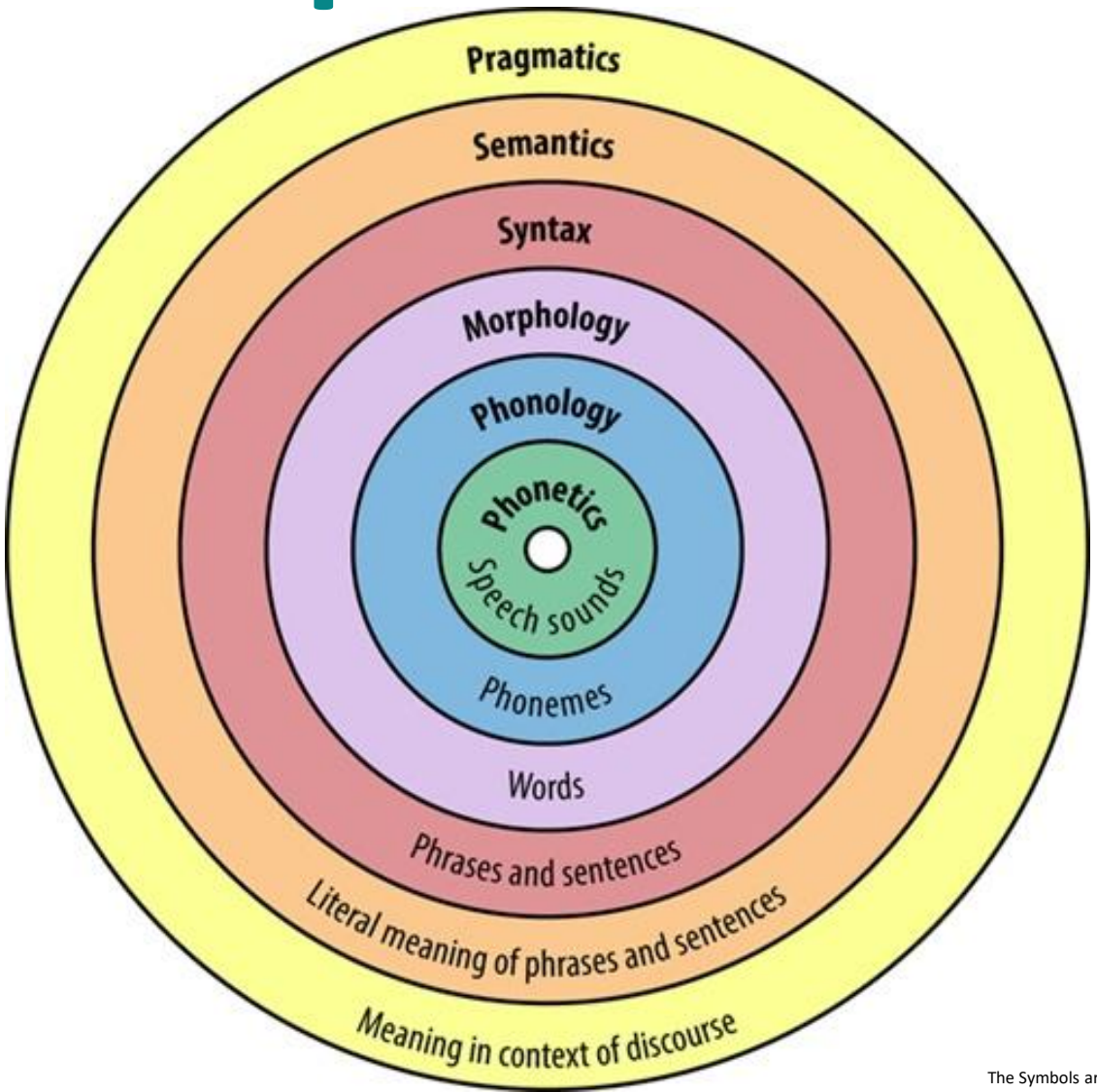
Language

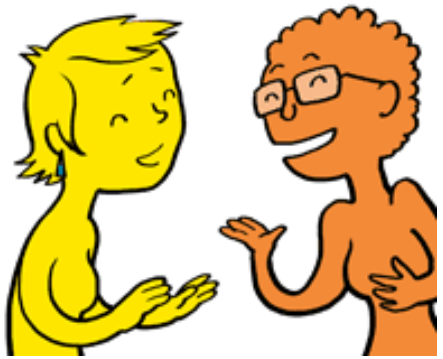
Form:

- Syntax
- Morphology
- Phonology

Content:

- Semantics





Use:

- Pragmatics

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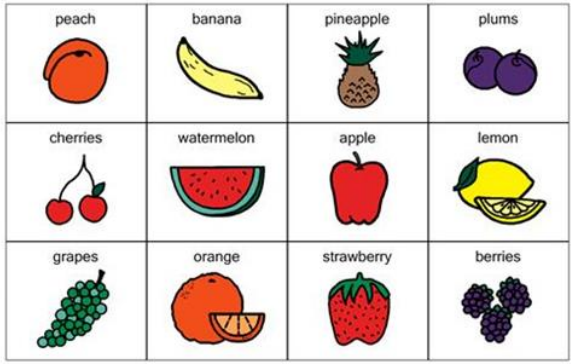
Linguistic Competence

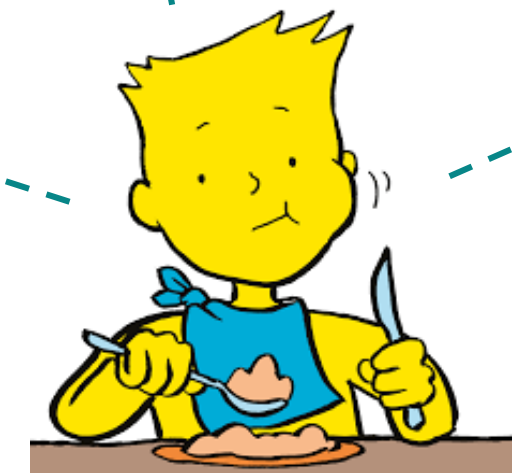
Semantics & Syntax

AAC & Our User

Symbols



Pragmatics



Vocabulary Organization

***Linguistic**

Receptive and expressive language

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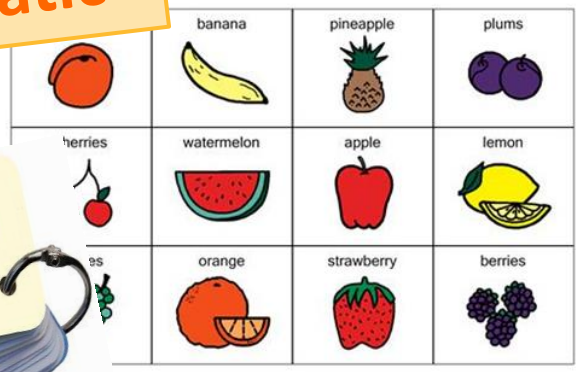
Augmentative & Alternative Communication

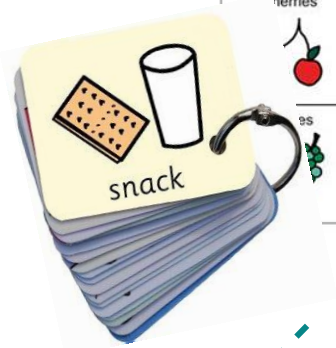
Types of AAC

Unaided

Low Tech

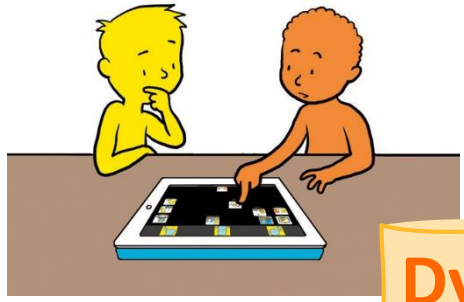
Static





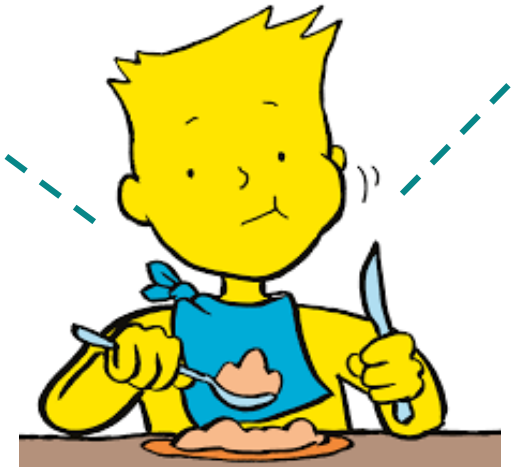
Aided

High Tech



Dynamic

Let's Review!



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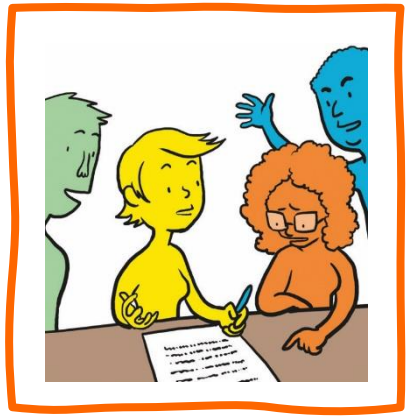
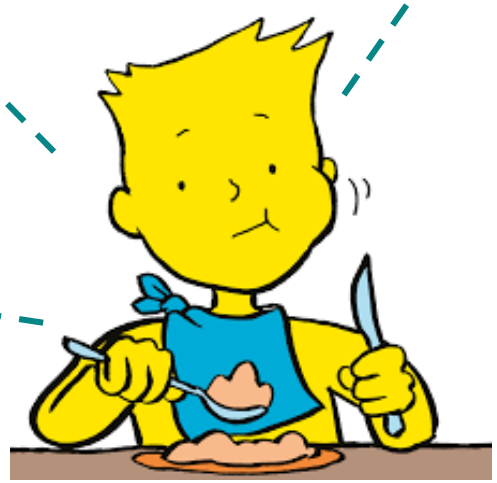
Linguistic Competence

Operational Competence

AAC & Our User





***Operational**

Skills to operate AAC systems (physical & cognitive)

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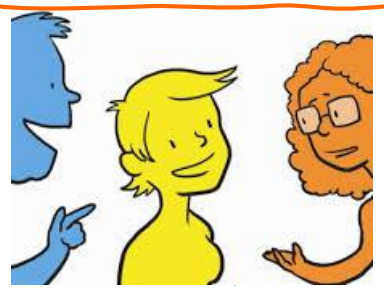
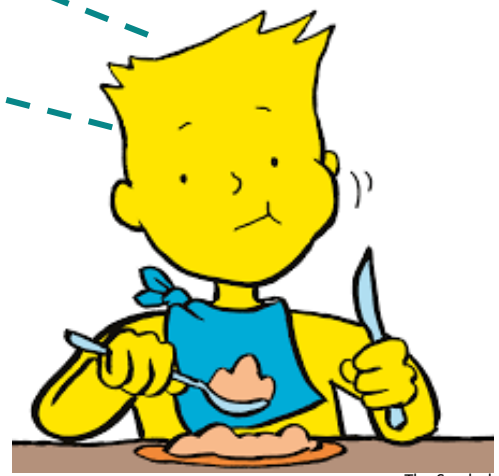
Linguistic Competence
Social Competence

AAC & Our User

Skills in the social rules of interaction



Strategic Competence



Compensatory strategies to overcome communication breakdowns

*** Social**

Skills to initiate, maintain, & end interactions for communication purposes

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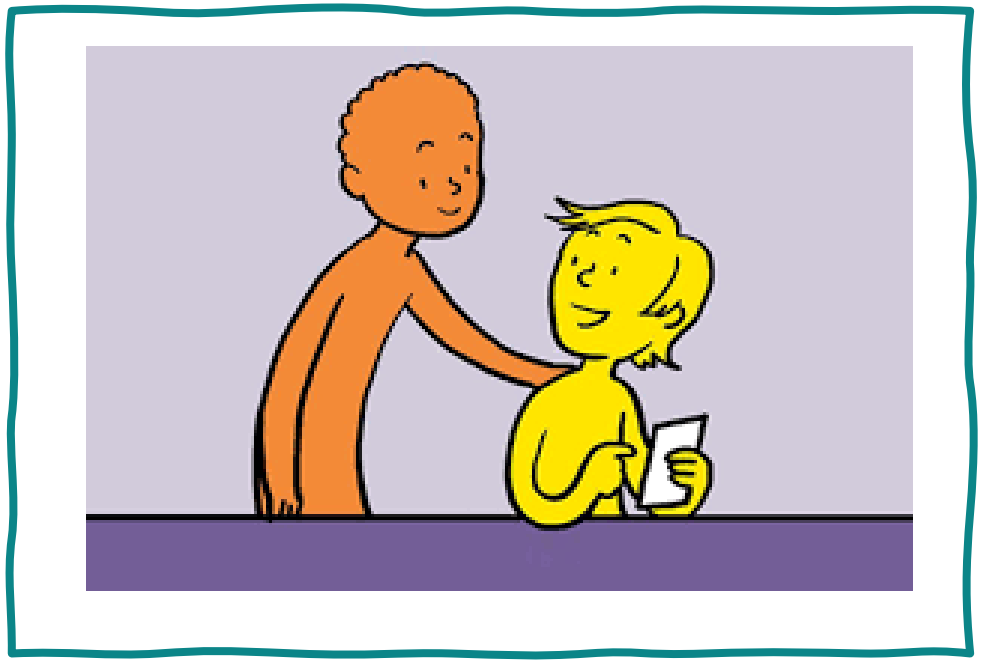
Extrinsic Factors



Communication Demands

Environmental Barriers & Supports

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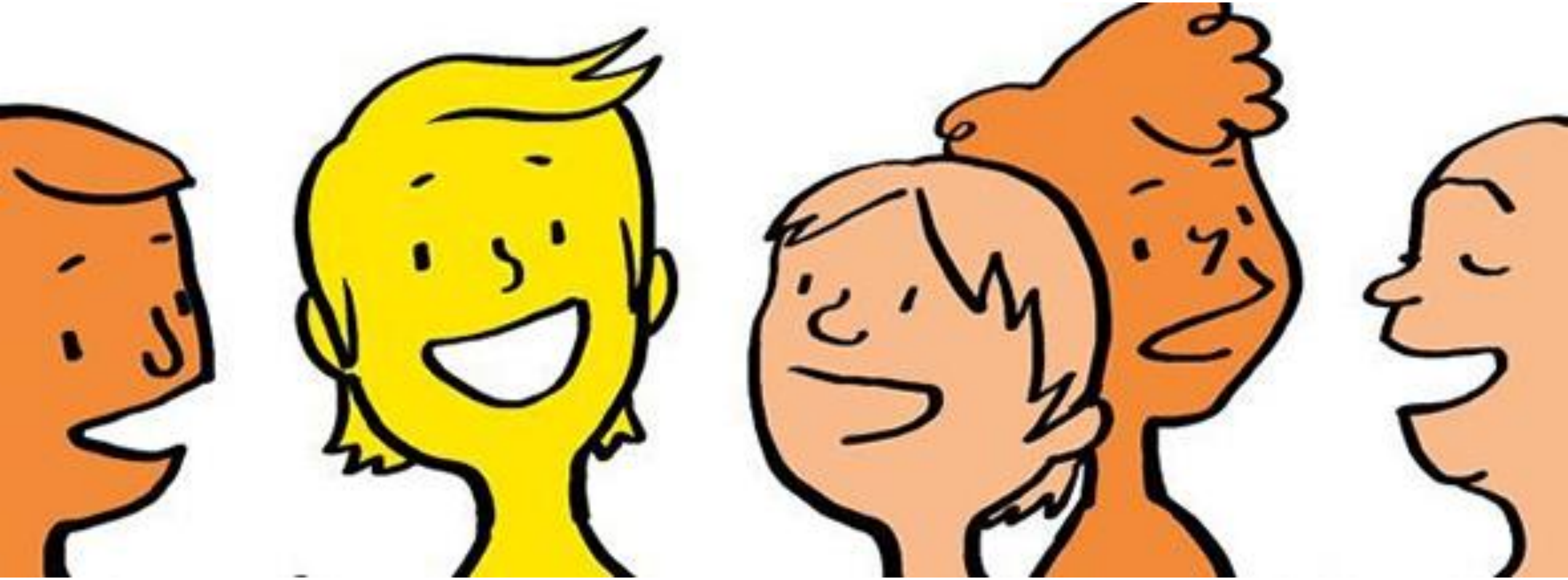

Supporting Communication Strategies

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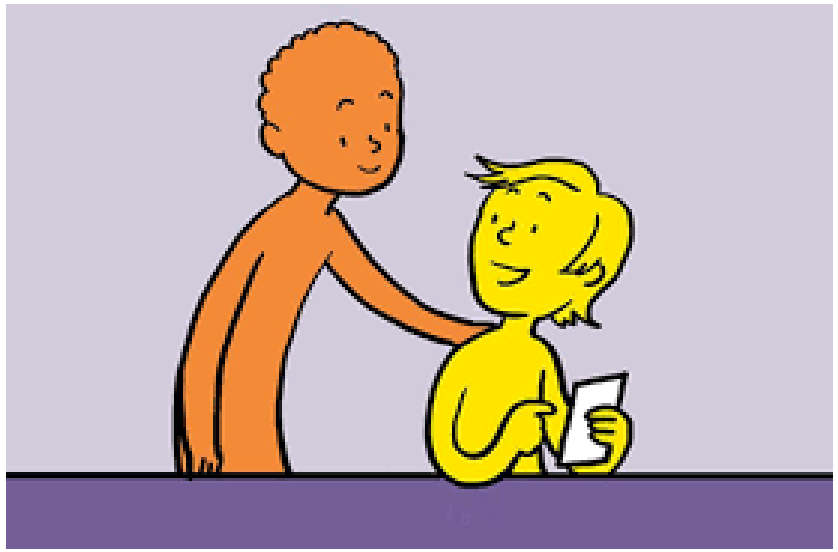
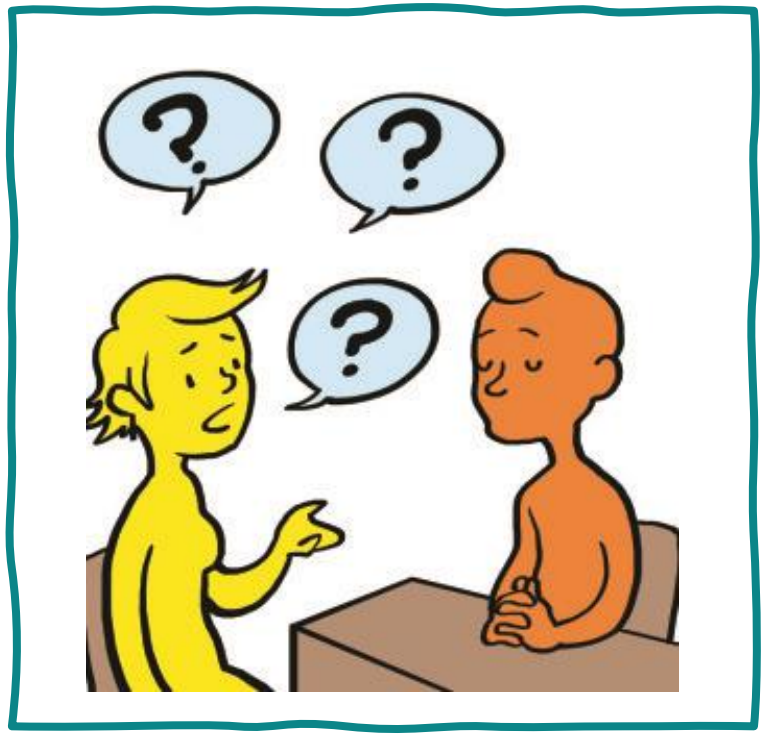
Supporting Communication Strategies



Facilitating Language Acquisition

Aided Language Simulation
Environmental Engineering



Communication Partner Strategies

Maintain and changing conversations
Repairing breakdowns

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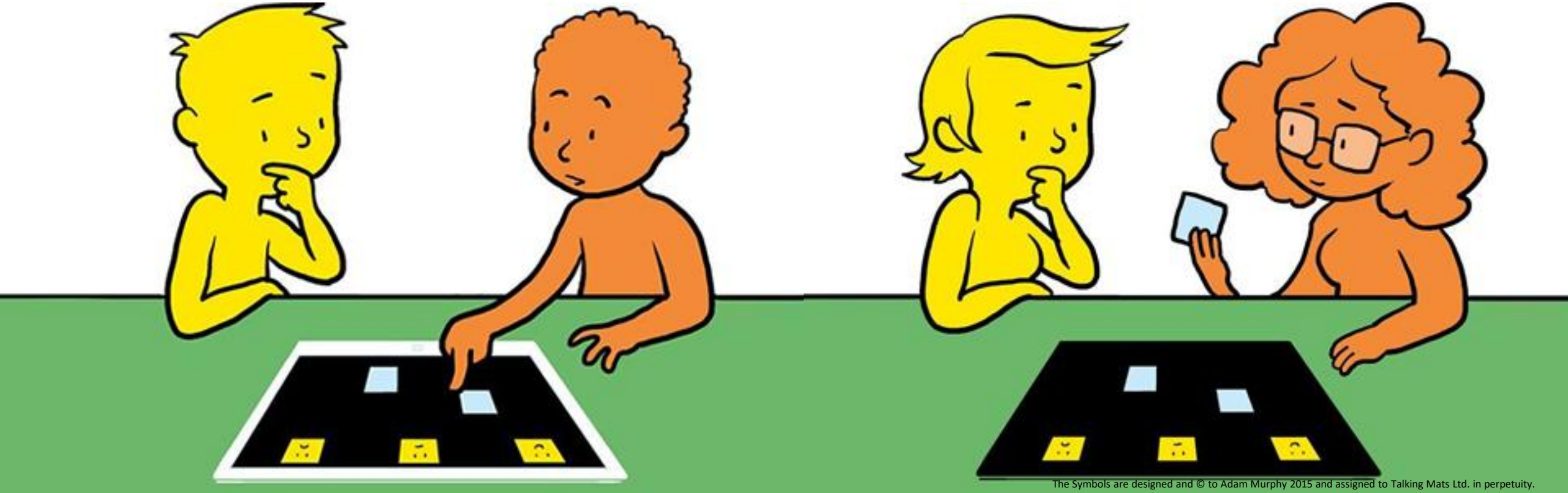
Facilitating Language Acquisition

- Aided Language
- Environmental Engineering



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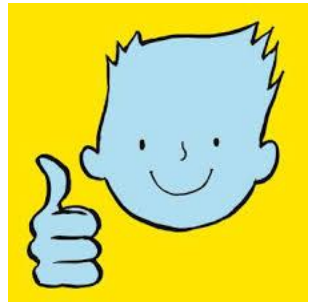
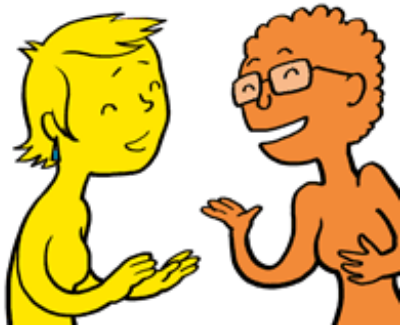
Spoken Language Development

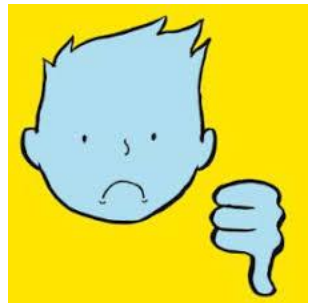


Spoken input



Spoken output

Aided Language Development



Spoken Input

Augmented output

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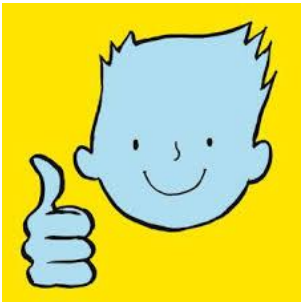
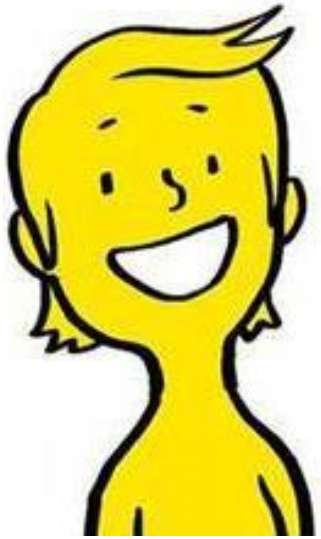
Aided Language Development



Augmented input



Augmented output

AAC Communication user is NOT a passive role *

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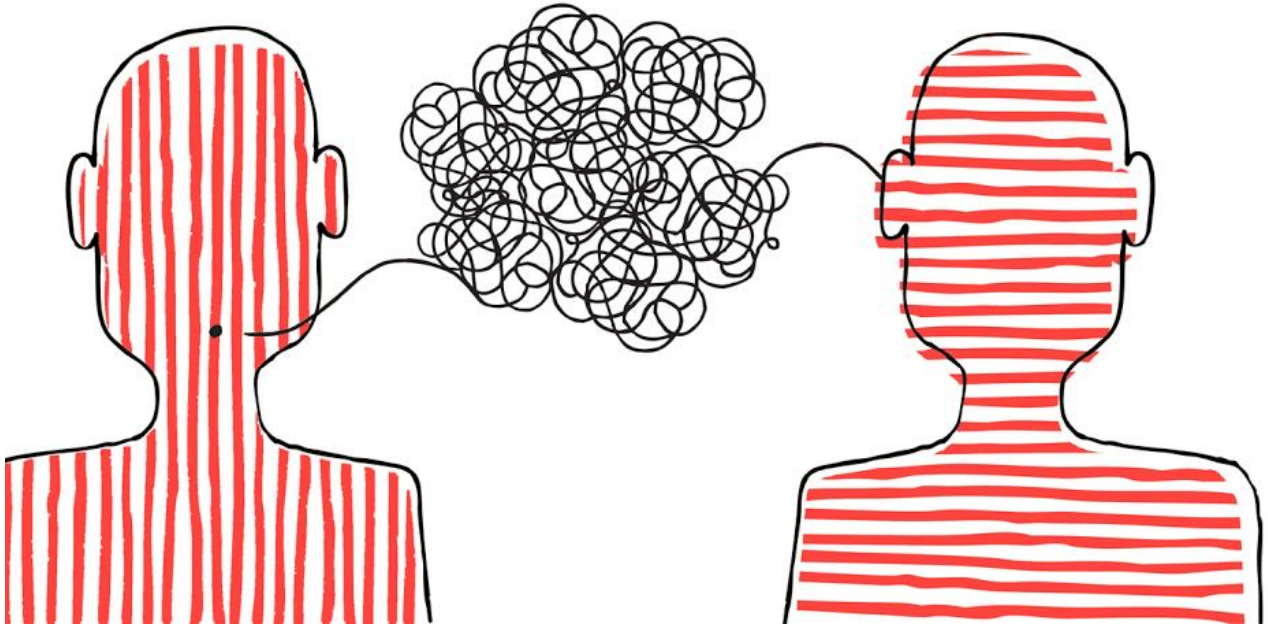
Communication Partner Strategies

Maintaining Communication & Turn Taking



- Go beyond yes/no questions
- Wait Time
- **Symbols**: *more time*, *finished, please wait,* and *your turn*

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Communication Partner Strategies:
Environmental Engineering

Temptations

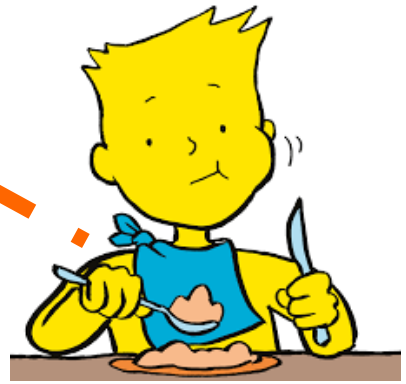
Set up with environment to "tempt" the person to communication

Sabotage

Alter items in the environment to encourage communication

Stupidity

Shift the making to the AAC user by pretending not what to do



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IS THIS EVEN WORKING?

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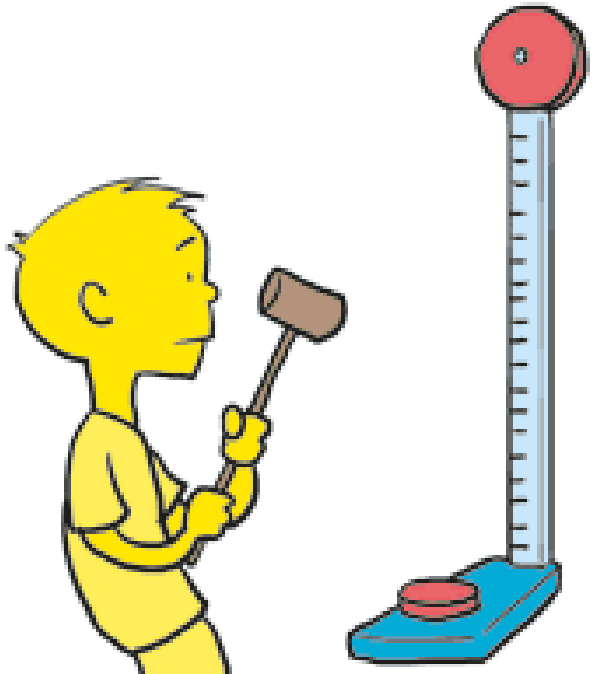
Gauging Success

- Decoding Behavior
- Goal Setting
- Communicating with Therapy Team



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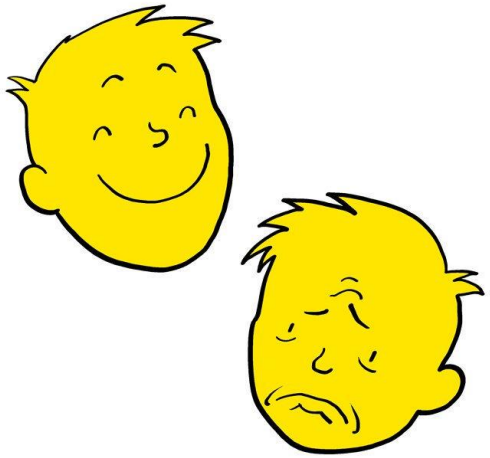
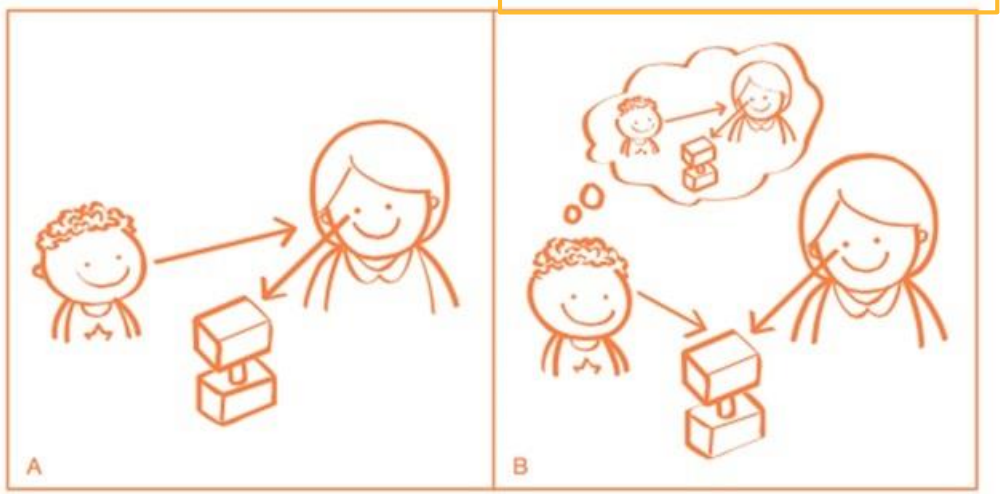
Decoding Behavior As Communication



Facial

Gestures

Joint Attention



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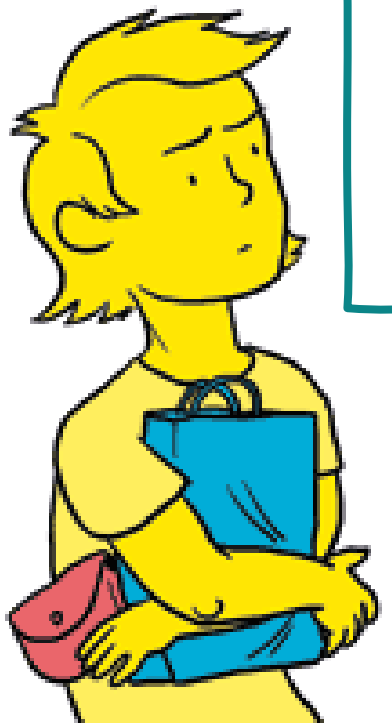

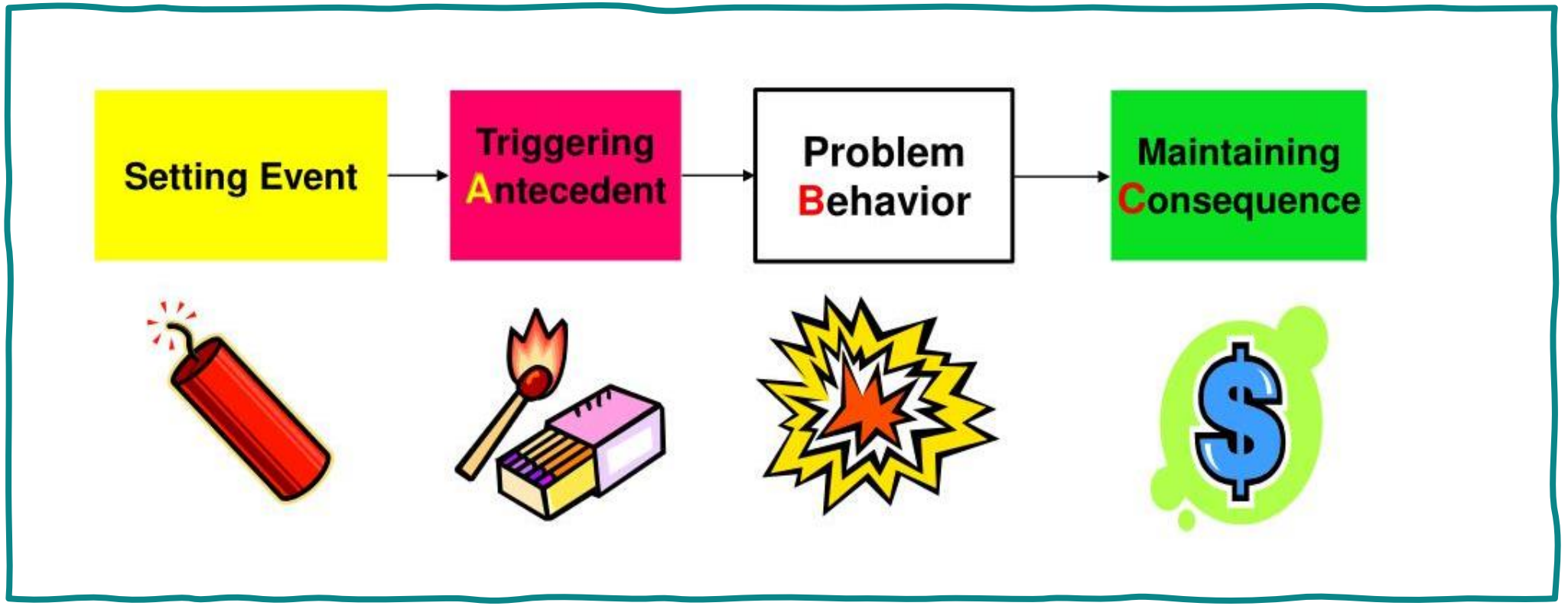

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Setting & Measuring Goals

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Questions?

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