

# Communication at Home

At school, we believe that there are *many different ways to communicate*: facial expression, gestures, signing, pictures, photographs, typing and more. We call it **AAC**.

**AAC are tools or technology that help people communicate if they can't rely on speech.**

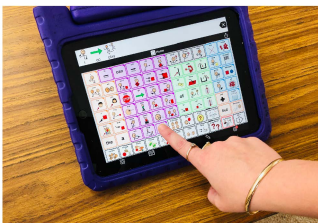
All our learners are encouraged to use these different forms of communication. Whether your child talks a lot, not at all, or only talks sometimes, AAC can help.

We use some tools such as paper and iPad versions of Proloquo2Go and PODD books.



*Talk to your child's teacher to learn more!*

**With a communication tool in hand, there are many things that you can do at home that can help your child's communication. Here are our 7 quick tips:**



**1. Model** - not down the catwalk, but by pointing and showing words on the board or book as you speak to your child.

**2. Talk about** things your child loves. Make it fun and motivating.

**3. Give your child a little more time** to say something or touch the communication board. **Pause and wait** for them before you help them.



**4. When you do help them** - talk to your child about pressing buttons on the AAC, show them again, but **do not take their hand** & make them touch it. They will only learn to hate it if you do that.

**5. Show your child how they can ask for things**, but also **make comments, tell stories & boss you around.**

**6. Notice** when your child tries to communicate something to you. **Point to words** on the communication tool to say what you think they are telling you.

**7. Your child may communicate in lots of different ways - accept them all.** If sometimes they speak and sometimes they point to pictures, it is all communication.

***Enjoy your communication adventure together!***