COMMUNICATION SUPPORTS FOR LEARNERS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

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COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

HYPOTONIA (LOW MUSCLE TONE)

AUDITORY PROCESSING CHALLENGES

HEARING AND VISION CHALLENGES

RECEPTIVE AND EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE GAP
WE ALL NEED A WAY TO COMMUNICATE!

IF YOU COULDN'T TALK, WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS YOU COULD COMMUNICATE?
WHAT IS AAC?

AUGMENTATIVE (TO ADD TO OR MAKE GREATER)

ALTERNATIVE (DIFFERENT)

COMMUNICATION
NO TECH

GESTURES (INCLUDING YES/NO)

SIGN LANGUAGE

EYE/FINGER POINTING

PARTNER ASSISTED COMMUNICATION/EDUCATED GUESSES
THE POWER OF PICTURES (AND WORDS)

APPEALS TO THE STRENGTHS OF VISUAL LEARNERS (LEARNERS WITH DOWN SYNDROME)

ENRICHES VOCABULARY

FOSTERS INDEPENDENCE
**PROBLEM**

Donny is seven. He's a non-verbal child with DS. His speech delay makes it difficult for him to communicate, and this leads to behavioral issues. If only there was a way to give him a voice...

**SOLUTION**

Wait! He can communicate visually! Using a PECS board, Donny can choose images of items or activities he wants, and place them on his board!
LOW TECH

- Does not contain a computer chip
- Relatively simple to use
- Simple to make
- Relatively low cost
At home, a loved one can help decide a snack choice with images.

In the classroom, a teacher can show the morning activities: Art-Lunch-Recess

Using a PECS, the child can find the appropriate image to communicate a need or want.
EASY LOW-TECH COMMUNICATION

Don't Reinvent the Wheel! Just "Google" PECS or Create Your Own
MORE EXAMPLES... (try Pinterest & Teachers Pay Teachers)
"GO TALK" SERIES

- START SMALL AND BUILD UP
- CUSTOMIZABLE
- PORTABLE
- DURABLE
- EASY TO USE
CREATIVE WAYS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION

• GIVE YOUR STUDENT A VOICE!
• GREAT FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AT HOME, IN SCHOOL, AND IN THE COMMUNITY

WWW.ADAPTIVETECHSOLUTIONS.COM

WWW.ATTAINMENTCOMPANY.COM
THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO SAY...
HIGH TECH (TOUCH SCREEN)
User has exposure and familiarity with low-tech tools

Has the ability to understand functionality (tool not a toy!)

Has the ability to navigate independently or with facilitation
HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Dad modeled language using Josie's device every chance he could!
EXPRESS YOURSELF!
WOULD YOUR CHILD BENEFIT FROM AAC?

• Observe your child
• Talk with your education team
• Request an evaluation

• DSCBA offers a Lending Library of low-tech to high-tech communication tools
• We partner with an AAC specialists who can provide consult, evaluations, and training.
• Communication Readiness Program (CRP)