

Welcome!

Welcome to the Augmentative Alternative Communication Program at the Spaulding Lexington Outpatient Center! We are excited to offer your child a comprehensive evaluation focused on helping your child communicate. At the center of the process are you and your child. The journey may feel exciting and overwhelming. We are here to help.

What does AAC stand for?

AAC stands for augmentative alternative communication. For people who struggle to communicate, it may include paper based tools (such as pictures and letter boards) or more sophisticated technologies. Your child's clinician will try a variety of systems to see what makes the most sense. Research suggests AAC enhances communication; it does not keep people from speaking.¹

What do I do now?

Our evaluation process is the only of its kind in the region. We take the time to get to know you and your family's needs so that we can make an informed decision. You can help us by:

- Filling out and returning the attached intake form
- Calling our office and scheduling 3 appointments:
 - o Initial AAC evaluation: 90 minutes
 - o 2 follow up sessions: 45-60 minutes each
- For each appointment please bring:
 - o Your child's favorite food or toys
 - o Any current communication system your child may be using at home or school

What happens after my third visit?

After your third visit, the evaluating therapist will make a recommendation. You will receive detailed instructions on next steps.

If at any time you have questions or need to reschedule an appointment, please contact the main office at 781-860-1742. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Kerry Davis EdD, CCC/SLP

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1 Schlosser, R. & Wendt, O. (2008). Effects of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Intervention on Speech production in children with autism: A systematic Review. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, (17) 212-230.

Augmentative Alternative Communication Evaluation Process

From start to finish

