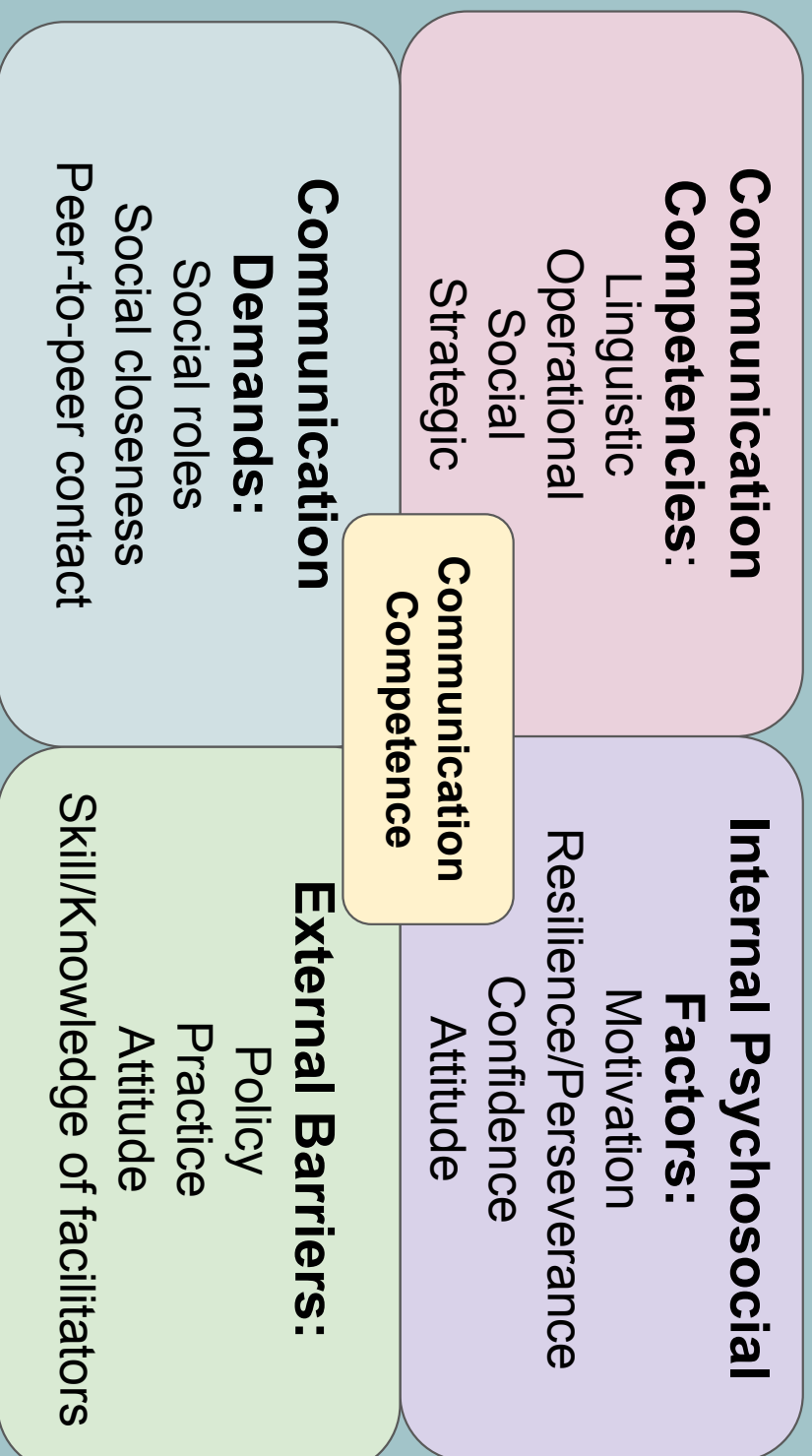


**“What does it look like to have
meaningful communication
support?”**

Conversation with Communication Access Connect
Amy Hanreddy, Ph.D.
Cal State University, Northridge

Janice Light's Theory of Communication Competence
(1989, 2007, 2014)



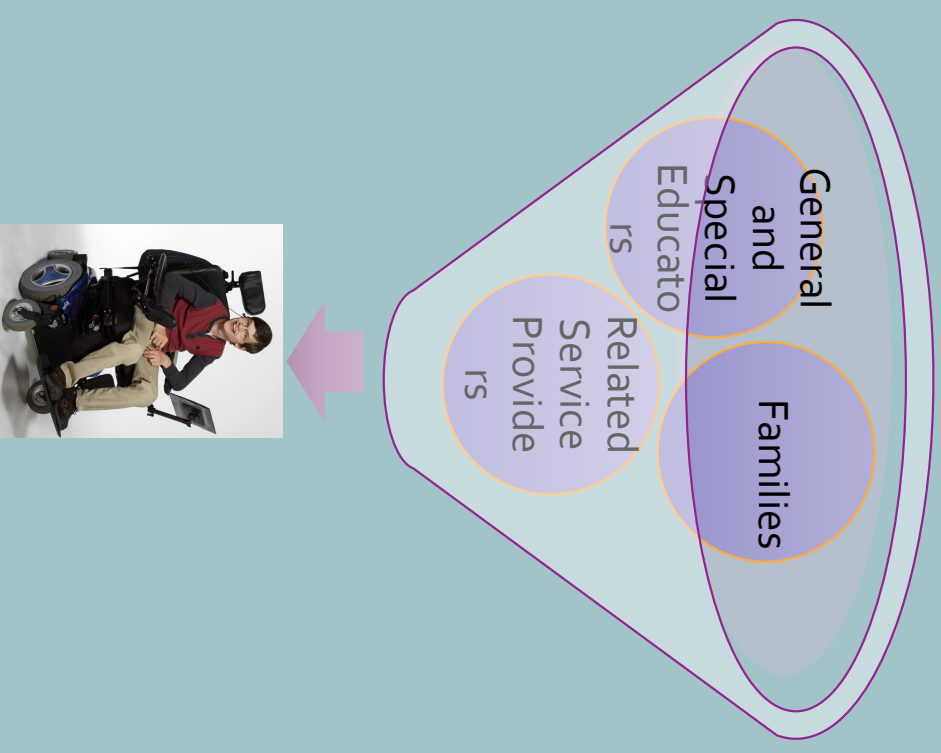
- AAC intervention is the *process* of enhancing daily functional communication across all communicative contexts
- This process takes *time* and *systematic instruction*, on the part of the augmented communicator as well as all stakeholders involved with the individual.

Rather than depend too much on the communicator's motivation, I encourage communication partners to focus on tactics needed for success: (1) Focus on true coaching of so many separate skills, and (2) Be clear and don't leave out the details.

I can honestly say that, prior to age 9, some of the biggest factors that affected my ability to communicate were never even addressed in my AAC training. - Grant Blasko

An Integrated Approach:

- Skills are contextualized
- All team members are responsible - not dependent on a particular provider
- Common goals (family, teachers, service providers, paras)
- Shared expertise to implement an integrated program.



1
Traditionally underserved minority population groups have more difficulty gaining access to AAC devices and services for their child (Soto, 2012).

Intervention conducted in school language
Culturally inappropriate symbols and messages
Device limitations
Lack of culturally accessible, family-centered instruction

2
We must become aware of our own cultural beliefs and privilege in order to effectively provide equal access to families.

Culturally/Linguistically Diverse Families and AAC

3
Recommendations must consider home language and whether they are a good match with family needs.

4
Recommendations should build upon (not replace) strategies that already work at home.

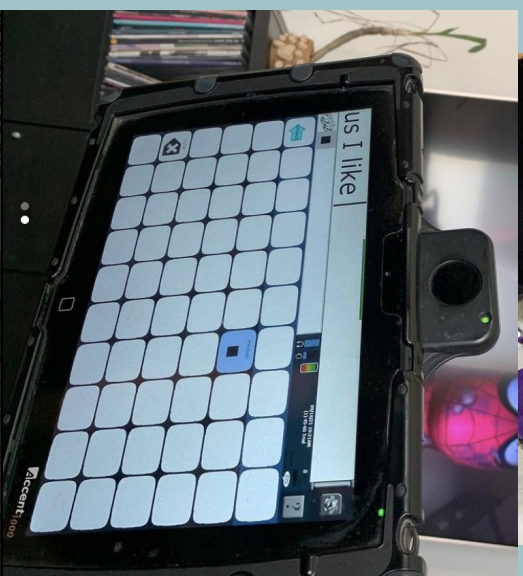
5
AAC language should match (or include) the language spoken in the home.

6
Systems should include vocabulary, styles, and concepts consistent with the student's culture.

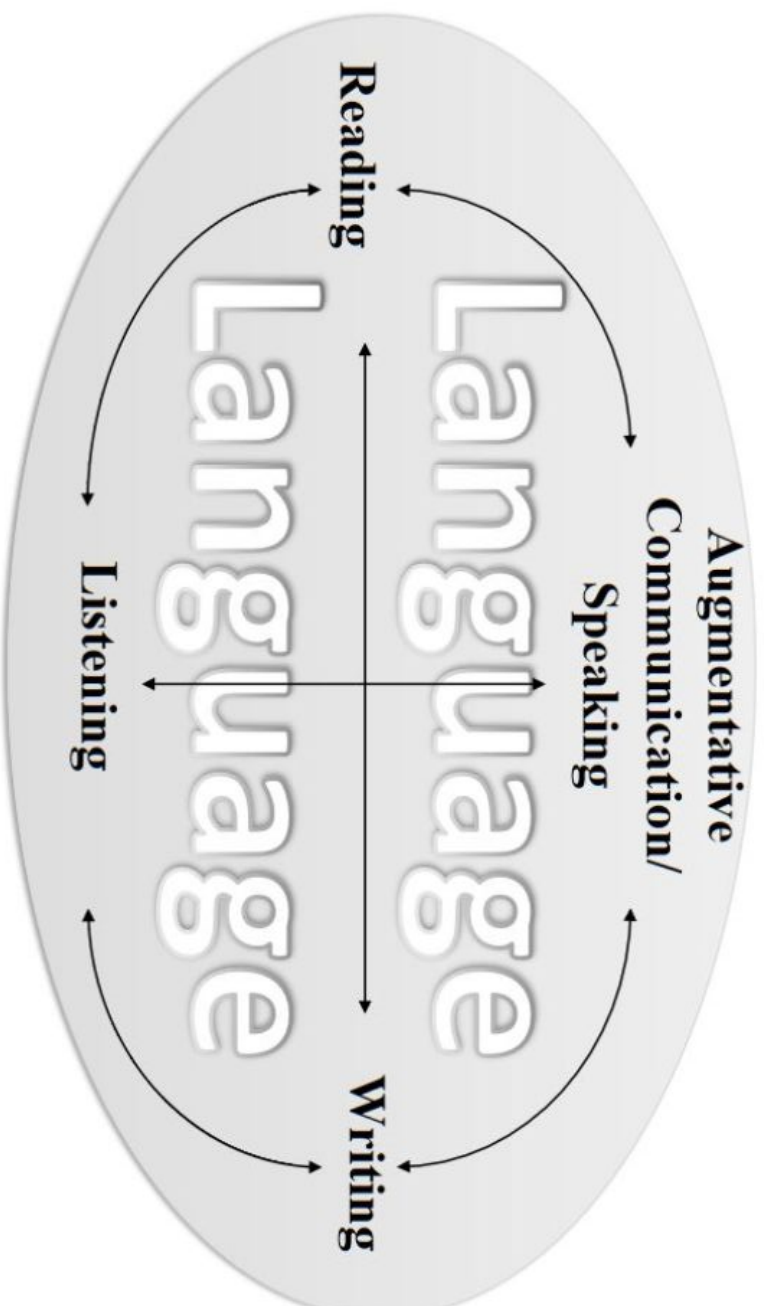
Have a Conversation (not an interview)

Maceo Speaks

He said "hobby ours" while Joe was picking what album to put on. When Joe put the music on, Maceo started smiling & moving. So Nettie then said "Maceo likes music as much as you do" (to Joe). Mace said "both". Then Joe said "That's right, it's both of our hobbies." Then Mace activated the message window "hobby ours both" & was grinning his face off as James Brown played on.



Provide space and opportunities to comment, share information, and ask questions



Oral and Written Language Development In the Common Core

(Koppenhaver, Coleman, Kalman & Yoder, 1991
adapted from Teale & Sulzby, 1989)

Modeling

**Robust
Vocabulary**

Wait time

**Meaningful use
of letters**

**Well-supported
organization system (NOT
randomly added words)**

AAC mentors

Teach, don't test