



## Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network 1-800-327-5287

### ***Fact Sheet 10 - Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices***

Augmentative and alternative communication includes any method that assists a person with communication when the person is having difficulty with oral communication. It includes sign language, including gesture systems, and communication devices. Listed below are websites that contain information about general resources, funding, and vendor information.

#### **General Resources on the Internet**

The following web resources listed below give a general overview about augmentative communication devices.

- **About Augmentative Communication from Speechville.com** at [www.speechville.com/augmentative-communication/augmentative-communication.html](http://www.speechville.com/augmentative-communication/augmentative-communication.html)
- **Augmentative Communication Consultants Inc** at [www.acciinc.com/ACCI\\_About.html](http://www.acciinc.com/ACCI_About.html)
- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication Terminology Organized for Augmentative and Alternative Communication by Dr. Beukelman & Dr. Mirenda, 1992** at [aac.unl.edu/academic/AACGBM1.html](http://aac.unl.edu/academic/AACGBM1.html)
- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication – Three Modules in AAC by the University of Washington** at [depts.washington.edu/augcomm/](http://depts.washington.edu/augcomm/)
- **Augmentative Communication Inc** at [www.augcominc.com/index.html](http://www.augcominc.com/index.html)
- **The Augmentative Communication Homepage** at [www.cs.wright.edu/bie/rehabengr/AAC/core.htm](http://www.cs.wright.edu/bie/rehabengr/AAC/core.htm)
- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Connecting Young Kids (YAACK) Home Page** at [aac.unl.edu/yaack/index.html](http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/index.html)
- **Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Communication Enhancement** at [www.aac-lerc.com/](http://www.aac-lerc.com/)
- **Tech Connections Quick Reference Series on Augmentative Communication Devices** at [www.catea.org/quickrefguides/guides/CommDevices-LP.pdf](http://www.catea.org/quickrefguides/guides/CommDevices-LP.pdf)

#### **Helpful Tips**

The following websites listed below offer general tips and guidelines to help individuals evaluate their different communication device needs.

- **Augmentative/Alternative Communication Tips, Tricks and Smart Sheets** at [www.aacintervention.com/tipstricks.htm](http://www.aacintervention.com/tipstricks.htm)
- **Choosing a AAC System** at [aac.unl.edu/yaack/toc.html#ch](http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/toc.html#ch)
- **Closing The Gap Library – Augmentative Communication Topics** at [www.closingthegap.com/](http://www.closingthegap.com/)
- **Communication Connects** at [communicationconnects.com/](http://communicationconnects.com/)
- **Six Tips for Choosing AAC Devices by Connections** at [www.linc.org/TextOnly/ataugcom\\_text.html](http://www.linc.org/TextOnly/ataugcom_text.html)
- **Technology Integration by Linda Burkhart** at [www.lburkhart.com/](http://www.lburkhart.com/)

#### **Vendor Resources**

The following list below provides different resource information on vendors of augmentative communication devices.

- **AbleData** at [www.abledata.com/](http://www.abledata.com/)
- **AbleNet** at [www.ablenetinc.com/](http://www.ablenetinc.com/)
- **Ability Research** at [www.skypoint.com/~ability/](http://www.skypoint.com/~ability/)
- **Adaptive Computer Systems Inc.**, at [www.adaptivation.com/](http://www.adaptivation.com/)
- **ADAMLAB, LLC** at [www.adamlab.com/](http://www.adamlab.com/)
- **Infogrip, Inc.**, at [www.infogrip.com/](http://www.infogrip.com/)
- **Innovative Solutions Group, LLC** at [www.innosolu.com/](http://www.innosolu.com/)
- **Advanced Multimedia Inc.**, at [www.amdi.net/](http://www.amdi.net/)
- **Assistive Technology Inc.**, at [www.assistivetech.com/](http://www.assistivetech.com/)
- **Attainment Company** at [www.attainmentcompany.com/](http://www.attainmentcompany.com/)

- **Crestwood Communication Aids** at [www.communicationaids.com/](http://www.communicationaids.com/)
- **Dynovox Systems** at [www.dynavoxtech.com/](http://www.dynavoxtech.com/)
- **Gus Communications** at [www.gusinc.com/](http://www.gusinc.com/)
- **Mayer-Johnson Inc.**, at [www.mayer-johnson.com/](http://www.mayer-johnson.com/)
- **Prentke Romich Company** at [www.prentrom.com/](http://www.prentrom.com/)
- **Saltillo Corporation** at [www.saltillo.com/](http://www.saltillo.com/)
- **Words Plus** at [www.words-plus.com/](http://www.words-plus.com/)
- **Zygo Industries Inc.**, at [www.zygo-usa.com/](http://www.zygo-usa.com/)

### Funding Resources

When funding Augmentative Communication Devices, you need to ask yourself the following questions:

- What is the most likely source of funding such as Insurance, Voc Rehab, and Medicaid/Medicare?
- Have you dealt with the source before and if so, were you successful in funding your device?
- How will the device be used (employment, education, independent living)?
- What documentation will I need to submit to these resources?

Below are listed some resources that will help you determine the type of funding source to use when purchasing an augmentative communication device.

- ***The Buck Starts Here... A Guide to Assistive Technology Funding in Kentucky*** published by the Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network at [www.katsnet.org/fundingbook.html](http://www.katsnet.org/fundingbook.html)
- **The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Program** at [katlc.http://katlc.ky.gov/ky.gov/](http://katlc.ky.gov/ky.gov/)
- ***The Road to Funding*** and other resources provided by Prentke Romich Company at [www.prentrom.com/funding](http://www.prentrom.com/funding)
- **Funding assistance information** from DynaVox Systems at [www.dynavoxtech.com/funding](http://www.dynavoxtech.com/funding)

