



OCTOBER SPEECH NEWS

OCTOBER IS AAC AWARENESS MONTH

Every October, we celebrate AAC Awareness Month to spread knowledge, promote acceptance, and highlight the importance of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

AAC includes all the ways someone can communicate besides talking – from gestures and sign language to communication boards and high-tech speech-generating devices. For many children and adults, AAC provides a voice, opens opportunities, and fosters independence.



IMPORTANT DATES

- Audiology Awareness Month
- Dyslexia Awareness Month
- Educational Audiology Awareness Week
- International AAC Awareness Month
- October 16, 2025 - Developmental Language Disorder Day
- October 22, 2026 - International Stuttering Day

AAC AWARENESS MONTH

Why it matters:

- Communication is a basic human right.
- AAC helps individuals express their wants, needs, ideas, and feelings.
- Research shows AAC supports, rather than hinders, speech development.

How you can support AAC users this month:

- Encourage use of AAC across all environments (home, school, community).
- Model language on your child's device or communication board.
- Celebrate every communication attempt – words, gestures, pictures, or devices all count!
- Share resources to spread awareness and normalize AAC use.
- Together, we can build a world where every voice is heard.



@BUSYBEESLP



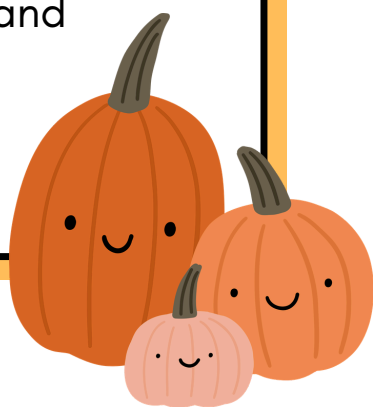
Using AAC at Home: Parent Tips

Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC)

AAC helps children and adults communicate using methods beyond speech. It can be as simple as pointing to pictures or as advanced as using a speech-generating device.

Reminders:

- Always Accessible – Encourage use across all environments and routines.
- Keep it Charged
- Consistency is Key



Activities to Build Vocabulary at Home

Model AAC

- Point to words on the device/board as you talk.
- Example: While eating → say “I want more” while selecting more on the device.
- Remember: You don’t need to model every word, just the key ones!

Make it Part of Daily Routines

- Mealtime: eat, drink, more, all done, yummy.
- Getting dressed: shirt, socks, on, off, help.
- Bath time: water, wash, big bubbles, done.

Play Together with AAC

- Bubbles: Model pop, more, up, fun.
- Blocks: Model build, up, fall, big, small.
- Pretend play (kitchen, dolls, cars): Model action and describing words.

Read and Sing with AAC

- Pause during a story → encourage your child to comment (big, happy, go).
- Use AAC for favorite songs → model stop, go, again, sing, fun.

