

# 4 AAC Myths



## **“Let’s try verbal strategies first!”**

AAC is often considered a “last resort” practice. Most studies show the highest impact on communication development when an AAC system and intervention is introduced in children from 0 to 6 years old (Leonet et al., 2022)

## **“It will stop my child from talking!”**

Studies have shown that AAC use increases children’s level of vocal responding (Cress & Marvin, 2023). Similar studies have shown that AAC systems have not been, “associated with a loss or inhibition of speech development” (Cress & Marvin, 2023, p.257).


## **“AAC will stigmatize my child!”**

Studies show that using AAC can help facilitate socialization and increases and fosters participation in activities with peers (Hanline & Nunes, 2022)

## **“My child just touches random buttons.”**

Just like in speaking children, AAC users need time to explore their new voice! Studies show that random button pushing can help a child learn the meaning of their messages across various contexts (Cress & Marvin, 2023). The key is responding to the child the same way we would with a speaking communicator.

## **References**

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- Cress, C. J., & Marvin, C. A. (2003). Common questions about AAC services in early intervention. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 19(4), 254–272. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07434610310001598242>
  - Hanline, Mary & Nunes, Debora & Worthy, M.. (2007). *Augmentative and Alternative Communication in the Early Childhood Years*. Young Children. 62.
  - Leonet, O., Orcasitas-Vicandi, M., Langarika-Rocafort, A., Mondragon, N. I., & Etxebarrieta, G. R. (2022). A systematic review of augmentative and alternative communication interventions for children aged from 0 to 6 years. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 53(3), 894–920. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2022\\_lshss-21-00191](https://doi.org/10.1044/2022_lshss-21-00191)